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SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 1989

RAJAB 13, 1409 AH

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Iraqi and Iranian officers to meet this week

BAGHDAD, Feb 18, (AP): Iraqi and Iranian officers will meet on the border between the two countries on Wednesday to co-ordinate efforts to stabilise the Gulf war ceasefire, the United Nations observer group announced today.

A statement issued by the UN ceasefire monitoring group said the meeting will be held on the ceasefire line near the Iraqi town of Khanaqin and the Iranian city of Qasr-e Shirin.

UN officials last week said that each country will be represented by 10 officers who will work with their respective government and the UN observers to resolve problems in carrying out the ceasefire agreement.

Refused

The officials refused to disclose the ranks of the participating officers.

The UN announcement said the mixed military group will be headed by the chief of the United Nations Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group, Yugoslav Maj. Gen. Slavko Jovic.

Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz told a news conference today that the military group will work on purely technical matters.

A Red Cross official said that it is preparing to repatriate the Iraqi POWs this week, although no date for their release has been fixed.

Study on health security scheme

A COMMITTEE has been formed to study a draft law for the establishment of a public health security authority. The committee, consisting of senior Health Ministry officials, will discuss the possibility of implementing the health security scheme.

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آن کے اردو صفحات میں

- اسرائیلی جارحیت پر کرائی جانے والی اعلیٰ حضرت امیر
- افغانستان میں جنگی حالت کا اعلان
- شوری نے صدر اور وزیر اعظم کو روک دیا
- امریکہ نے اسرائیل مخالف قرارداد کو رد کر دیا
- سلمان رشیدی نے معافی مانگی
- سکھ علیحدگی پسندوں نے ۱۲ افراد کو ہلاک کر دیا

WEATHER

CLOUDY weather with light to moderate south-easterly wind and a chance for some rain.

State of sea: rough

High water: 12.00 pm

Low water: 6.00 am, 6.00 pm

Sunrise: 6.25 am

Sunset: 5.40 pm

Maximum temperatures recorded:

Kuwait: 18°C 64°F

Ahmed: 15°C 59°F

Falaka: 15°C 59°F

Minimum temperatures recorded:

Kuwait: 5°C 41°F

Ahmed: 8°C 46°F

Falaka: 9°C 48°F

Maximum temperatures expected:

Kuwait: 19°C 66°F

Ahmed: 17°C 63°F

Falaka: 16°C 61°F

Maximum humidity recorded:

Kuwait: 78 per cent

Ahmed: 89 per cent

Falaka: 90 per cent

Call to defend human rights in occupied areas

Stop Israeli killings of Palestinians: Amir



HH the Amir at the conference. (Photo by Javed Basra)

KUWAIT, Feb 18, (Agencies): HH the Amir said today that countries which claim to be dedicated to human rights should prove it by intervening to stop Israeli killings of Palestinians.

He told the 18th Arab Engineering Conference a 14-month uprising in Israeli occupied territories had boosted support for Palestinians world-wide.

Appealed

But the Amir added: "We want to turn this appreciation into positive effort by states which call for defending human rights to stop this aggression and plunder and prove clearly they are with human rights and against tyranny."

The Amir said the uprising, which has paved the way for the declaration of the independent

Palestinian state, is now in desperate need of deeds, not words to liberate the occupied territories.

He appealed for the protection of Arab and Islamic heritage in historic Palestine, saying it was threatened by Israeli sabotage.

Turning to the Iraq-Iran war, the Amir called for a speedy implementation of UN Resolution 598 in full.

Hoping for peace in Afghanistan, he called on the Afghan people to be on guard against their enemies who are trying to spread hatred among their ranks.

Welcomed

The Amir also hoped that the efforts being exerted to end the Lebanese crisis will be successful.

The Amir welcomed the establishment of the Arab Co-operation Council and the Arab Maghreb Union, and said these

are two great achievements in the field of regional Arab co-operation, spearheaded by the GCC.

Turning to the issues which the conference will discuss, the Amir told the engineers modern buildings threatened historic sites in Arab capitals.

He added: "Arab engineering planning, is not only able to combine originality, modernity and future outlook, but also capable to unite comprehensive Arab and local schemes."

The Amir called on the conference to strengthen its ties with the counterparts in the Organisation of Islamic Conference and expressed belief that such co-operation "would enrich our engineering experiences and bring good to all."

The Kuwait Engineering Society (KES) has thanked the Amir for inaugurating the conference.

US vetoes draft deploring Israel

UNITED NATIONS, Feb 18, (Reuters): The United States yesterday vetoed a Security Council resolution strongly deploring Israel's actions in the occupied territories, where hundreds of Palestinians have been killed in a 14-month-old uprising.

The vote on the resolution was 14 in favour and one against, with no abstentions.

It was the first US veto since the Bush administration took office a month ago.

The US vetoed another resolution critical of Israeli actions in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip in February last year.

The latest draft would have strongly deplored Israel's "persistent policies and practices against the Palestinian people in the Palestinian territories" occupied by Israel since 1967.

Violation

It referred especially to the "violation of human rights, and in particular the opening of fire that has resulted in injuries and deaths of Palestinian civilians, including children."

Voting for the resolution were: Algeria, Brazil, Britain, Canada, China, Colombia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Malaysia, Nepal, Senegal, Soviet Union and Yugoslavia. The US was the only one to vote against the resolution.

Explaining the US veto, Ambassador Herbert Okun said his country continued to urge restraint on all sides and had made clear to Israel its opposition to certain practices, such as the expulsion of Palestinian residents, collective punishment and the use of live fire in non-life-threatening situations.

But he said the resolution was flawed, adding: "In severely criticising Israeli policies and practices, it does not take into sufficient account the context in which they occur or the excesses of the other side."

Strongly

The status quo in the territories was clearly unacceptable and the situation was inherently unstable and must be addressed. It could only be resolved in the context of an overall negotiated settlement of the Arab-Israeli dispute, Okun stated.

The vetoed resolution would have strongly deplored the "con-

tinuing disregard by Israel" of past council resolutions and called on it to comply with the fourth Geneva Convention on the protection of civilians in time of war.

The resolution would also have called for the exercise of maximum restraint and affirmed the urgent need to achieve, under UN auspices, a comprehensive, just and lasting settlement of the Middle East conflict.

Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar would have been asked to follow the situation by all means available to him.

Council sources said the United States had proposed an alternative text including a call for restraint by all parties and omitting any reference to a UN-sponsored peace conference. But this was unacceptable to most other members and was not formally submitted.

The debate began last Friday at the request of the observer delegation of Palestine, as the mission of the PLO is called, following the declaration last November of a Palestinian state.

Virtually all speakers in the debate criticised Israel for resorting to harsh measures in putting down the Palestinian uprising, or intifada, that began in December 1987.

Protect

They urged action to protect the Palestinians and the convening of a Middle East peace conference under UN auspices and with full participation by the PLO.

Speaking after the vote, Nasser Al Kidwa, the alternative representative of Palestine, said he could not understand the US attitude in the council and cited a recent State Department report critical of Israel's handling of the uprising.

Mediators to meet Lebanese religious leaders

KUWAIT, Feb 18, (Agencies): Arab League mediators will meet Lebanese religious leaders in Kuwait on Monday as part of their efforts to end Lebanon's constitutional crisis, Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed said today.

In Tunis, a league spokesman said the mission would meet leaders of Lebanese political parties and militias before the end of March.

The mission, chaired by Sheikh Sabah, conferred on Jan 31 and Feb 1 with the leaders of Lebanon's two rival governments, the Christian Michel Aoun and the Sunni Muslim Selim Al Hoss.

Sheikh Sabah said at the time that differences between the government leaders persisted and his mission had decided to consult other groups.

Lebanon has had two governments, a powerless Parliament and no president since September when a boycott by Christian deputies foiled attempts to elect a Syrian-supported successor to outgoing President Amin Gemayel.

The Arab League mediators will meet Sheikh Hassan Khaled, the Sunni Muslim mufti; Sheikh Mursel Nassr of the Druze; Sheikh Mohammed Medhi Shamseddine, vice-president of the Higher Shiite Council; the Maronite patriarch Butros Sfeir; the Greek Orthodox patriarch Agnatius Hazim and the Roman Catholic patriarch, and the Muslim Hakim.

Tanker collision

SCHENINGEN, Holland, Feb 18, (UPI): A British tanker collided today with a Danish trawler in gale force winds in the English Channel, Holland's Coast Guard said.

Shevardnadze meets Syrian President

Arafat, Assad might bury the hatchet

DAMASCUS, Feb 18, (AP): President Hafez Al Assad met today with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, and Arab media reported that his visit might lead to a reconciliation between Assad and PLO leader Yasser Arafat.

The Arabic newspaper Al Haya said that Arafat might visit Damascus after Soviet mediation made the step possible.

The London-based Lebanon daily quoted the sources as saying Arafat's visit was meant to coincide the visit of Shevardnadze, who arrived in the Syrian capital yesterday for two days of talks.

The sources said Arafat put forward a number of preconditions to the Soviet side, one of which was the release of Palestinian prisoners Syria promised to free last year.

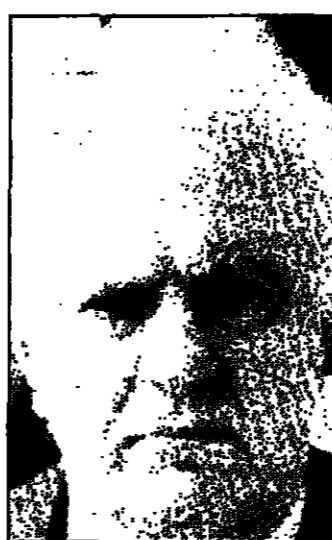
Arafat has been at odds with Assad since 1983, when he started openly backing Palestinian groups trying to oust Arafat from his chairmanship of the PLO.

Proposal

Shevardnadze said he is carrying a new proposal for Middle East peace. Details of the proposal Shevardnadze is carrying have not been released, but Middle East observers are predicting it will be the first major, high-ranking Soviet attempt in years to involve itself in finding a solution to the Arab-Israeli dispute.

"We shall discuss urgent bilateral issues, but the basic topic will be the situation in the Middle East and the ways leading to solutions to regional conflicts," Shevardnadze declared in an arrival statement yesterday.

Shevardnadze said Syria has a "credible" role in solving the



Shevardnadze

Middle East crisis and described the present circumstances as "more suitable than before" for finding a solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

His visit comes just days after the Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan after keeping troops there for more than nine years. Their battle against Muslim rebels was not popular among Arabs.

"The opportunities to solve this conflict are increasing," the Soviet official said.

Visit

After two days of talks with Syrian leaders including Assad, Shevardnadze is scheduled to visit Amman, Cairo, Baghdad and Tehran. He is due back in Moscow Feb 27.

Shevardnadze's visit will be the first ever by a Soviet foreign minister to Jordan, which has doubled its efforts lately to establish closer relations with the Soviet Union while maintaining its pro-Western policies.

Rebels name president

Emergency declared in Afghanistan

KABUL, Feb 18, (Reuters): Afghan President Najibullah declared a state of national emergency today to defend the country against conspiracies and "armed intervention from outside," as the mujahedeen (holy warriors) named their president and prime minister, who they hope will lead an interim government in Kabul.

In Islamabad the Afghan news agency said the supreme council of the seven-party mujahedeen alliance nominated moderate Mohammad Nabi Mohammadi as head of state and Ahmad Shah as Prime Minister. A consultative council, or shura, immediately approved both nominations without an objection, it said. Iran-based Shiite rebel groups did not attend the session of the shura.

Shura spokesman Abdurrahman Sayyaf, in a statement, said the nominations of Mohammad and Shah were decided at a special supreme council meeting.

The statement added: "Both these leaders will formulate the cabinet and present it to the consultative shura on Feb 19."

The shura will be dissolved after the approval of the interim cabinet.

Allegations

Speaking three days after the withdrawal of the last Soviet troops, Najibullah said Western-backed rebels, Pakistan and the United States had stepped up their attempts to undermine his government.

He reiterated allegations that Pakistan intended to annex Afghanistan.

"The duty of the government of Afghanistan is not to allow the enemies to endanger the lives of the people of Afghanistan," Najibullah said.

The emergency was imposed to repulse the "interventions from outside the country and defend the political independence, national sovereignty and territorial integrity of Afghanistan," he added.

Under the constitution the President can impose a state of emergency for three months. Any extension needs the backing of a Loya Jirga, a traditional assembly of tribal elders.

Suspension

The constitution, which dates from December 1987, says a state of emergency includes the suspension of freedom of expression and the rights of assembly, petition, inviolability of homes and privacy of correspondence.

The mujahedeen rebels and their Western backers say the ruling People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan is running the country as a one-party state and the constitution and National Assembly are a democratic facade.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman told reporters that attempts by rebels to frighten people in Kabul by circulating secret "night letters" warning of rocket attacks had contributed to the decision to impose the emergency.

The security forces in the last few days had captured large quantities of rockets and some guerrillas, near the capital, preparing for such an attack, he said.

Bahraini minister to visit Tehran

Iran wants a grouping of all Gulf states

MANAMA, Feb 18, (AP): Bahrain Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed Bin Mubarak is to visit Iran shortly, the Arabic-language Bahrain weekly Al Adwa reported today.

The weekly quoted Iranian Charge d'Affaires Hussein Norakian as saying the visit should bring "constructive and beneficial steps" toward boosting bilateral ties.

Since Bahrain holds the rotating presidency of the GCC, the visit would also have a broader impact.

Norakian said Iran hopes to see "a grouping of all the Gulf littoral states, to administer Gulf affairs and safeguard its security."

Pact

Iran's call for a joint security pact with the GCC states has been outstanding since a United Nations-sponsored ceasefire halted its eight-year war with Iraq last Aug 20.

But officials in the GCC capitals have pointed out that

UN Security Council Resolution 598 — the basis for UN-sponsored peace talks between Iran and Iraq — also provides for regional security arrangements.

Bahrain's relations with Iran have been strained since an attempted coup in Bahrain in 1981 was blamed on Iran.

The Iranian menace to neighbouring Gulf countries and their shipping during the war also kept tensions high, but relations have gradually improved since the ceasefire.

Norakian said: "Iranian officials have repeatedly affirmed the necessity of fostering bonds between Iran and the Gulf littoral states, and the importance of mutual respect and non-interference in each other's affairs."

He added that Iranian parliamentary Speaker Hashemi Rafsanjani repeatedly said that the Islamic constitution stipulates good neighbourliness and we see that this is an Islamic obligation dictated by our religion.

'Rushdie's apology enough to warrant pardon'

LONDON, Feb 18, (Agencies): Author Salman Rushdie, facing an Iranian bounty for his death, apologised to Muslims world-wide today for the distress caused by publication of his novel The Satanic Verses.

Iran's official news agency IRNA, in an abrupt reversal of its position, said late tonight that Rushdie had earned a pardon with his statement expressing regret for distress caused to Muslims by 'The Satanic Verses.'

"The statement, though far too short of a repentance, is generally seen as sufficient enough to warrant his pardon by the masses in Iran and elsewhere in the world," IRNA said.

In a statement issued by his agent, Rushdie said: "I profoundly regret the distress that publication has occasioned to sincere followers of Islam."

"Living as we do in a world of

many faiths this experience has served to remind us that we must all be conscious of the sensibilities of others," the brief statement said.

It also was issued to Iran's Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA), and a story was sent to Tehran, a spokesman for the agency said.

He and his wife have been in hiding, reportedly protected by armed guards, since Iranian leader Ayatollah Khomeini ordered his death on Tuesday.

He apologised a day after Iran's President, Ali Khamenei, said the Indian-born Briton could save his life by admitting he blundered.

The Islamic Society for the Promotion of Religious Tolerance said in a statement: "We very much welcome Mr Rushdie's apology and hope that it will now pave the way out of

this unfortunate crisis."

A prominent Muslim condemned the Iranian campaign against the author, which began with Khomeini's demand that zealous Muslims kill Rushdie because The Satanic Verses blasphemed Islam.

The head of the Shiite Muslim community in Europe on Friday urged book companies not to publish the novel, but he denounced Khomeini's death call.

Distress

The Jeddah-based Organisation of Islamic Conference today urged its 46 member states to boycott companies involved in publishing The Satanic Verses.

Viking, the book's publishers in Britain and the United States, said earlier this week that it and the author "very much regret the distress the book has caused." But Viking did not apologise for

publishing the book.

Before today's statement, Rushdie had said the novel was fictional and not blasphemous.

Khomeini's order caused Britain to shelve plans to expand its embassy staff in Tehran. In December, Britain reopened its embassy in Tehran after an eight-year closure.

France announced today that its ambassador to Iran, scheduled to return to Tehran on Sunday, would be delaying his departure "for consultations." The statement did not elaborate.

West Germany withdrew its envoy from Tehran this week and the Netherlands last week cancelled a planned state visit to Iran.

After Khomeini also ordered the death of publishers of the novel, book companies in France, West Germany, Greece

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(Continued on Page 2)

INTERNATIONAL

ANC appeals for unity to solve Winnie row

LUSAKA, Feb 18, (Reuters): The African National Congress (ANC) today said black militant Winnie Mandela had made mistakes but urged South African anti-apartheid groups not to shun her.

In its first official reaction to the controversy, the guerrilla group accused the South African government of infiltrating agents provocateurs among her bodyguards who are accused of brutality and murder.

"The African National Congress calls on our people to close ranks," the ANC's national executive said in a statement released from its headquarters in Lusaka after a hectic, two-day meeting chaired by President Oliver Tambo.

The statement balanced criticism of Winnie, wife of jailed ANC leader Nelson Mandela, with appeals to anti-apartheid groups not to ostracise her.

Denounced
Winnie was publicly denounced on Thursday by anti-apartheid groups which accused her of dragging the family name into dishonour.

The groups have linked her bodyguards, members of the so-called Mandela United Football Club, with the disappearance and death in January of teen-age activist "Stompie" Moeketsi Seipei. Police are also investigating the alleged murderous behaviour of the club members.

The ANC leaders said Winnie had ignored their advice to disband the club and "we consider it necessary to express our reservations about Winnie Mandela's judgement in relation to the Mandela football club."

It condemned the "unbecoming activities" of the club's members and said Winnie had been "left open and vulnerable to committing mistakes which the enemy exploited."

"We have every reason to believe that the club was infiltrated by the enemy and that most of its activities were guided by the hand of the enemy," the statement added.

Hotel fire

DETROIT, Feb 18, (AP): A four-alarm fire broke out early yesterday in a downtown hotel, killing at least four people and forcing some residents to slide down makeshift ropes of blankets and sheets in freezing weather, officials said.

Baker winds up tour of NATO nations

Turkey wants joint approach on nuclear issue

ANKARA, Feb 18, (Agencies): Turkey will conform with NATO policy in talks on whether to update nuclear weapons on its territory, Defence Minister Ercan Vuralhan said.

"In my opinion nuclear modernisation is a reality... Turkey is one of the countries that will be taken into consideration as far as any modernisation is concerned," Vuralhan said.

"We are saying in general, in principle we do not want to increase the number of nuclear systems in our territory. We again say this is a matter of NATO and it must be dealt with at NATO level," he told Reuters in an interview.

The question of modernising short-range nuclear missiles dominated this week's tour of 15 members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation by US

Secretary of State James Baker.

The issue is delicate in Turkey, as in other NATO countries such as West Germany, at a time when Ankara is improving ties with its Soviet neighbour.

West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl last week demanded delays in the long-planned modernisation programme pending further East-West arms talks.

Vuralhan, whose country guards one-third of NATO's border with Warsaw Pact countries, said modernisation had to be unanimous.

"If that phase is reached Turkey will evaluate her own stand," he said.

"As with other countries, Turkey will of course appear again in a constructive role (in talks). We would not say flatly we would reject anything, any kind of modernisation."

Baker arrived home last night after concluding a tour of NATO nations and saying he expects the issue of modernising short-range nuclear missiles in Europe to be successfully resolved in the next three months.

Baker, tired but upbeat after the six-day tour, discussed a host of issues with European officials, including arms and trade, the Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan, and the situation in the Middle East and Central America.

Portrayed

During a stopover earlier Friday in Ireland, Baker told reporters the issue of modernising short-range nuclear missiles based in Europe has not divided the NATO alliance nearly as much as portrayed in the press, which reported reserve in West Germany because of its strong anti-nuclear lobby and fears that

it could find itself at the centre of an East-West conflict if war broke out.

Instead, he said, he believes the issue will be settled in the next three months before a NATO summit meeting tentatively scheduled for the last two weeks of May.

Baker said solution to the dispute will include what has been called "a comprehensive concept" — a balance between modernization of NATO's deterrence linked to an approach to the Soviets for further arms control.

Outlining his overall impression of his first trip as secretary of state to Europe, whose leaders are debating the fast-moving diplomacy and strategy of Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, Baker said he feels the NATO alliance remains unified and in favour of strong US leadership.

Stroessner's wife and daughter arrive in US

MIAMI, Feb 18, (Reuters): The wife and daughter of deposed Paraguayan dictator Alfredo Stroessner arrived here yesterday amid speculation they were planning to set up permanent residence in Miami.

Stroessner's wife, Ligia Mora, her daughter Graciela and Graciela's second husband, Spaniard Manuel Gonzalez Llana, held valid six-month tourist visas and made no request for political asylum, according to Richard Smith, deputy director of the US Immigration and Naturalisation Service (INS) office here.

Smith said the US State Department notified immigration officials of the visit but did not reveal any further details of their travel plans. He said it was not known whether they planned to set up residence in Miami but that they were free to travel to any part of the United States.

Stroessner, in exile in Brazil, was ousted in a bloody coup on Feb 3 in which general Andres Rodriguez took power. Stroessner had ruled for 34 years.

The three family members left Asuncion on Thursday night on a regular Linneas-Aerneas Paraguayas (LAP) flight and landed at Miami International airport early yesterday.

Paraguayan presidential Secretary Conrado Pappalardo said in Asuncion: "Nobody bothered them, they never had any problems here in Paraguay, nor were they detained."

Pappalardo said Stroessner's younger son Alfredo, married to Rodriguez's daughter Marta, stayed in Asuncion. His elder son Gustavo is with the ex-dictator in Brazil.

Impression

Stroessner on Thursday was quoted as saying he would return to Paraguay after presidential elections which Rodriguez has set for May 1.

A witness to the departure of Stroessner's relatives at the airport outside Asuncion said: "They had a lot of luggage and I got the impression they were going to Miami to stay."

He said they had no security guards and nobody took particular notice of their departure.

Meanwhile, a former editor of Stroessner, newspaper editor Humberto Dominguez Dibb, was put under house arrest in Asuncion.



This photo was chosen the best picture of the 32nd World Press Photo contest in Amsterdam. The photo was entitled 'Armenia Earthquake Funeral'. (Reuters wirephoto)

American wins press photo award

AMSTERDAM, Feb 18, (Reuters): American photographer David Turnley yesterday won the World Press Photo of the year 1988 award with his picture of a man grieving over a coffin following December's earthquake in Armenia.

Turnley, a 31-year-old Paris-based photographer for the Black Star agency, shot the picture for the Detroit Free Press. A nine-member jury chose his picture from more than 10,000 submitted by 1,287 photographers from all over the world.

Premadasa swears in 21-member cabinet

COLOMBO, Feb 18, (Agencies): President Ranasinghe Premadasa today swore in a 21-member cabinet, keeping the defence post for himself, tapping finance and foreign ministers with no experience and demoting the two most powerful holdovers from the previous government.

In addition, Premadasa left the decision on naming a prime minister, effectively the parliamentary leader of the ruling United National Party (UNP).

Premadasa announced his cabinet three days after the UNP won an absolute majority in elections for the 225-seat Parliament, retaining an 11-year lock on power in the island nation riven by separate insurgencies by rebels of the ethnic Tamil minority and the Sinhalese majority. The UNP won 125 seats.

The President, who succeeded Junius Jayewardene on Jan 2, presided over a swearing-in ceremony for the cabinet at his official residence in central Colombo.

Retained

All the members are Sinhalese except Trade and Shipping Minister A.R.M. Mansoor and A.C. Shahul Hameed, the higher education and science and technology minister, who are Muslims, and S. Thondaman, a Hindu Tamil of Indian descent who retained the Rural Industries Ministry and was also given the textile portfolio.

The administration included one woman.

The size of the cabinet came as

a surprise, with all newspapers reporting that it would contain only 15 members. Political sources said Premadasa at the last minute buckled under pressure from within his party to expand the number of posts.

In selecting his government, Premadasa dropped 12 members of the previous administration and inducted nine new ministers.

He retained for himself the defence and policy planning and implementation portfolios and also took over a newly created Ministry for Buddhist Affairs. The country's 11 million majority Sinhalese are Buddhists.

Assigned

Premadasa named as Foreign Minister Ranjan Wijeratne, the UNP general secretary and a former tea planter who served as chairman of the state-run Plantations Corporation. Wijeratne who has never held any diplomatic office, replaced Hameed.

The former minister for posts and telecommunications, D.B. Wijetunge, was assigned the finance portfolio, an area in which he has had no experience.

Those members of Jayewardene's government who retained cabinet positions were all demoted to minor ministries, including the two most powerful holdovers, Lalith Athulathmudali and Gamini Desanyake.

Desanyake, who was lands minister and considered close to India, was given the portfolio for plantation industries.

Floods in Soviet man-made sea threaten half a million people

MOSCOW, Feb 18, (Reuters): Flooding caused by a man-made sea in southern Russia has ruined 350,000 hectares (870,000 acres) of prime agricultural land and threatens more than half a million people's homes, the newspaper Izvestia said yesterday.

Izvestia blamed experts at the Water Resources Ministry for allowing the water level in the Kuban Sea to rise, unmonitored, far higher than it should have. It said draining only part of the land would cost one billion roubles (\$1.6 billion).

"In total 600-700,000 people are at risk," Izvestia said, describing the consequences of the latest in a series of man-made ecological disasters involving Soviet seas, lakes and rivers.

Suffering
"One hundred and thirty settlements are suffering, the foundations of 27,000 blocks of flats have been flooded and 900 of them have collapsed," it added. "One hundred and fifty km (90 miles) of roads and nine bridges are out of action."

The airport in Krasnodar, the local capital, was flooded and water had also reached other parts of the city, it said.

"Rural areas are suffering

colossal damage. More than 350,000 hectares of arable land on state and collective farms are submerged and crops have been washed away from 108,000 hectares (270,000 acres) of them."

Izvestia said the Kuban Sea, built around 20 years ago near the Black Sea in the south of the Russian federation, the largest Soviet republic, had been allowed to fill up with more water than foreseen in the original project.

Merging

The extra water in the sea was merging with underground water, forcing it upwards and so causing floods, Izvestia said.

"It was only at a recent emergency meeting that they found that when drawing up plans for the Kuban 'monster' they either 'forgot' to take into consideration the whole drainage complex which always accompanies irrigation projects or decided to save money on it," Izvestia said.

"For all these years the 'monster' was not being seriously watched and, in order to do that, it is necessary to set up urgently a hydro-irrigation scientific research body."

Nevertheless, Izvestia said it would take many years and enor-

mous amounts of money to repair the damage done.

"They plan ... to drain only 140,000 hectares (350,000 acres) out of more than 300,000 (740,000) by the year 2000," Izvestia said. "It will cost a minimum of one billion roubles (\$1.6 billion)."

While the Kuban Sea is overflowing, there is concern that irrigation projects and excessive industrial use have led to the Aral Sea in Soviet Central Asia losing about one third of its water in the last 25 years.

Protection

Fyodor Morgun, head of the Soviet Union's State Environmental Protection Committee, has called it "a region of economic catastrophe."

Besides reports of severe pollution in many other Soviet rivers and lakes, controversy has also continued over a vast irrigation scheme, finally abandoned in 1986, to divert Siberian and Russian rivers southward.

Izvestia said earlier this month that officials pressed on with the plan to build the Volga-Chograi canal, a part of the project, for five years despite warnings that it would be disastrous for the environment.

North trial set to begin next Tuesday

WASHINGTON, Feb 18, (Reuters): After months of delay and legal wrangling, the trial of former White House aide Oliver North in the Iran-Contra case is set to start next Tuesday.

"The jury will be sworn in and the trial will start at 9:30 am Tuesday morning, February 21," a US district court official announced yesterday afternoon. The trial is expected to last several months.

Although the most serious conspiracy charges against him have been dropped, North faces 12 criminal charges including lying to Congress, shredding secret documents and using government money for himself in a plan to divert funds from US arms sales to Iran to the Nicaraguan Contras.

North admitted to several of the charges at congressional hearings in 1987, but none of that testimony can be used against him in the trial. He is the first of four defendants, including former National Security Adviser John Poindexter, to stand trial in the case.

Guilty

North has pleaded not guilty to the criminal charges and said he was following orders from former President Reagan and other top administration officials.

The delays were caused by arguments between independent counsel Lawrence Walsh, attorneys for North, a former Marine Corps officer, and the Justice Department over how to protect evidence that might threaten national security if made public.

Under an agreement reached on Thursday with Walsh, Attorney-General Dick Thornburgh will have the right to withhold information that he believes could damage national security if it was used in a public trial.

Judge Gerhard Gesell, who approved the agreement, then must decide whether to dismiss some or all of the charges if evidence necessary to the defence is blocked.

North's attorneys attacked the agreement and said he could not get a fair trial without a full admission by the prosecution of Reagan administration actions.

The admission is a statement of the facts in the trial which do not have to be proven by evidence or testimony. Gesell issued an order yesterday suspending the hearing of his 44-page admission, which will be made public when the trial opens.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Detention without charge

JOHANNESBURG, Feb 18, (AP): Minister of Law and Order Adriaan Vlok said there were at least 884 people in detention without charge as of last month and signed eight release orders yesterday, as most hunger-striking detainees resumed eating. Vlok has never given current figures for the number of people in detention at any time since the national emergency began on June 12, 1986, but monitoring groups say more than 30,000 have been held for varying periods, some for the entire two years and eight months.

Azores crash probe

NEW YORK, Feb 18, (AP): The investigation into the crash of an American-operated jet in the Azores last week is focussing on errors by pilots and flight controllers, and bad radio communications, a newspaper reported today.

The New York Times reported that tape recordings between the pilots and flight controllers indicate the pilots believed they had been cleared to descend to 2,000 feet (610 metres) when the controllers had said 3,000 feet (915 metres).

In addition, the controllers apparently gave the crew an incorrect barometric setting for the jet's altimeter. The newspaper cited unidentified informants who said the altimeter error would have accounted for an additional 300-foot (91-metre) error.

Rushdie

(Continued from Page 1)

and Turkey decided not to publish it. Others in Finland, Norway and Italy were unwayed.

Major US booksellers removed the novel from their shelves, and Canada halted imports. The book has been officially banned in Iran, India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Egypt and South Africa.

The governments of West Germany, Spain, Britain and the United States condemned the Iranian campaign.

The Iranian envoy to London said Khomeini's pronouncement of a death sentence against Rushdie was a religious statement that had been misinterpreted.

Marlboro Lights



The spirit of Marlboro in a light cigarette.

GOVERNMENT WARNING: SMOKING IS A MAIN CAUSE OF LUNG CANCER AND DISEASES OF THE LUNGS, HEART AND ARTERIES.

Iran may pardon dissidents abroad

NICOSIA, Feb. 18, (AP): The Iranian government has prepared a plan to grant a general amnesty to encourage the nearly four million Iranian exiles living abroad to return home, Iranian Prime Minister Hussein Musavi was quoted as saying.

The official Iranian news agency, monitored in Nicosia, said Musavi, speaking in the western Iranian city of Tabriz upon his return from the three-day visit to Turkey said the plan would be submitted soon for approval to Ayatollah Khomeini.

Details of the proposed plan, which Musavi first announced while visiting Turkey, were not given.

Musavi said in Ankara that the government will provide special facilities for the Iranians abroad to return home. He called on the self-exiled Iranians to preserve their links with the homeland.

Last week, Khomeini's successor-elect Ayatollah Hussein Ali Montazeri said "firm steps" should be taken to attract the Iranians "who long to come to Iran but are scared."

Talks

Musavi's talks with Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal focused on political and economic issues, including an Iran-Turkey gas trunkline project for the transfer of Iranian natural gas to Europe via Turkey, IRNA said.

The agency said Musavi denied reports that Iran was holding talks with Turkey with the United States, adding that "no discussion was even held with Turkish officials in this regard."

Some of the exiles, concentrated mostly in Turkey, Pakistan, the United States, Britain and France, fled to avoid political persecution.



Libyan leader Muammar Khaddafi expresses his joy at the successful end of the Maghreb union summit in Marrakesh, Morocco.

Truce fails to defuse tension in Beirut

Aoun warns of final showdown

BEIRUT, Feb. 18, (Reuters): Lebanon's Christian Army commander warned a rival militia today of crushing military action unless it quickly yielded to his demands.

"Either our proposals are carried out quickly and peacefully within a certain deadline or there will be a final and decisive showdown," Major-General Michel Aoun told Beirut's leftist As-Safir daily.

His blunt warning echoed comments by political sources that a church-mediated truce between Aoun's men and their fellow-Christians in the Lebanese Forces (LF) militia was at best precarious.

The truce took effect yesterday afternoon, ending three days of battles that killed at least 57 people and wounded 130.

The truce mediated by the

Maronite Christian church called for a durable ceasefire and withdrawal of LF militiamen from the streets, so the regular Army could exercise full authority.

But the sources noted that Aoun had demanded a good deal more of the LF, including a halt to its taxes on the 1.3 million people in the Christian enclave.

Closure

He also insisted the LF should close down its newly-founded National Development Council, which deals with educational, economic, industrial and agricultural projects and is seen as a challenge to government authority.

Aoun, who heads one of Lebanon's rival governments, told a news conference yesterday the LF had tried to oust him and usurp his legitimate authority.

He vowed to stop the LF from forming a state within a state.

"We have so far coexisted with an abnormal situation. This irregular situation should be eliminated," Aoun said.

The political sources said a committee of Christian deputies would meet Aoun to discuss ways of resolving his differences with the LF, headed by Samir Geagea.

Geagea said last night after a four-hour meeting with the Maronite Christian patriarch and Christian members of parliament that he would withdraw his fighters from the streets of East Beirut.

He did not say if he would comply with Aoun's other demands, but has said he would only stop collecting taxes if the government agreed to finance his militia's social, educational and military expenses.

King Hassan outlines programme for change

ACC will help offset threats

BAGHDAD, Feb. 18, (Agencies): Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz today said the new four-nation Arab Co-operation Council (ACC) will prove "a major element of stability" in offsetting threats from Iran and Israel.

Meanwhile King Hassan of Morocco, after signing the Maghreb union treaty, outlined a programme for drastic change in the North African region.

Aziz told a news conference in Baghdad the ACC which was formed Thursday in Baghdad will bolster Arab solidarity in facing "threats and challenges" from both Israel and Iran.

Lesson

The council groups Iraq, Jordan, Egypt and North Yemen in an alliance aimed at co-ordinating economic plans, reducing tariffs and opening internal markets. But it also has a political impact.

"We hope that Iran will draw

the appropriate lessons from its defeat in the war and from the establishment of the council — that it should respect its neighbours and have good relations with them," he said.

The eight-year Iran-Iraq war was halted by a United Nations-sponsored ceasefire last Aug 20 but peace talks under UN auspices have failed to make progress. Aziz said the council is basically an economic grouping but pointed out that with a combined population of 80 million and armed forces of two million, the four nations "enjoy a high level of political understanding and co-operation."

"This council has not come from nothing, it was built on profound and extensive political co-operation," he said.

Iraq and Egypt boast two of the Arab world's strongest military forces, and already co-operate with Jordanian forces in some ways.

Aziz said the four countries will remain loyal to other Arab groupings including the charter of the 22-member Arab League and the joint Arab Defence Pact.

Hestressed that these commitments would not conflict with Egypt's Camp David peace agreements with Israel.

Success

Aziz said he was confident the new alliance would prove successful "unlike many previous attempts" in the Arab world.

"It is a modest beginning... but the leaders of the four countries have a clear-cut and strong determination to make it successful," he said.

Aziz declined to answer when asked whether Iraq would veto Syrian membership of the council, but said that could happen.

"This is not a club to be open to every body... it is natural that we will use our right to veto any membership if we find the coun-

try wishing to join has no similar views with us," he said.

Syria and Iraq, ruled by rival wings of the Baath Socialist Party, have been at loggerheads for years.

At the end of a two-day summit with the leaders of Libya, Tunisia, Algeria and Mauritania, King Hassan said the next six months could see rapid progress towards dismantling customs and immigration controls from the Atlantic to the Eastern Mediterranean.

"These are the areas which are very advanced. We are all very optimistic about the speed at which we plan to move," the King, first chairman of the Arab Maghreb Union, told a news conference at his Marrakesh palace, Morocco.

HH the Amir of Kuwait today sent cables of congratulations to the five leaders of the Arab Maghreb Union.

Lover of Hudson gets another \$7.25m

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 18, (Reuters): A jury that awarded the male lover of the late film star Rock Hudson \$14.5 million on Wednesday gave him another \$7.25 million dollars yesterday.

Hudson's lover, Marc Christian, had originally sought \$11 million on the grounds Hudson and his former private secretary, Mark Miller, had engaged in outrageous conduct by concealing the fact that Hudson had AIDS.

After ruling Hudson's estate would have to pay Christian \$14.5 million in compensatory damages, the jury decided that Miller would have to pay \$7.25 million.

The jury decided Hudson, who died in October 1985, and Miller had intentionally concealed from Christian, a former bartender, that Hudson was suffering from AIDS while continuing to have sex with him.

Christian allegedly told reporters: "I thought maybe \$1 million or \$2 million. It was just a total shock."

"If I don't get AIDS, I still have a lot to complain about. The man may have tried to bring me down with it," said the 35-year-old, fair-haired Christian, who once wanted to be a singer.

Defence lawyers were considering appealing the decisions. Lawyers for Hudson's estate repeatedly pointed out during the trial that Christian had tested negative for AIDS.

"But the message is you've got a duty that if you have a deadly disease that can be passed on to someone else and you know it, you tell them," Christian said.

"One word from Rock and we would never have been here," he said.

Of his memories of Hudson, the star of such films as *Pillow Talk*, *Lover Come Back* and *Magnificent Obsession*, Christian said: "Now that the AIDS is over, they're good memories."

Getting sex disease from haircuts

SEOUL, Feb. 18, (Reuters): Men in the South Korean capital run more risk of contracting venereal disease at the barber's than in one of the city's brothels, according to a Health Ministry report released here.

A ministry official said the report, based on a "blood-sampling raid" of 150 barber shops in Seoul's nightlife districts, showed more than one in five female employees were infected with syphilis, gonorrhea or some other sexually transmitted disease.

No instances of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome were recorded.

Many South Korean hairdressing salons provide curtained-off cubicles with low pink lighting where women provide as "lewd services". Others, despite the coloured pole outside, do not even make the pretence of offering haircuts.

The 22.1 per cent infection rate found in the salacious salon survey was more than twice the 9.6 per cent for working prostitutes, the Health Ministry said.

New charges

ATHENS, Feb. 18, (Reuters): Greece today charged a Palestinian wanted by the United States with having illegal weapons in his prison cell.

Two illegal "blades" were found in the cell of Mohammed Rashid during a routine check by prison guards, police said. His trial was set for Monday and, if convicted he faces a maximum of five years in prison.

One more held in Recruit scandal

TOKYO, Feb. 18, (AP): Prosecutors today arrested an executive of an information services conglomerate in the widening stock-trading scandal that has tarnished Prime Minister Takeshita's administration.

Toshihiko Ono, chief secretary of Recruit Co., was in the custody of the Tokyo district public prosecutors office on suspicion of violating the security and exchange law.

Ono allegedly sold unlisted shares of his company's real estate subsidiary, Recruit-Cosmos, between 1984 and 1986, a spokesman for the Justice Ministry said. Ono reportedly sold some 640,000 shares to 79 people without notifying the Finance Ministry.

He was the eighth suspect this week to be arrested in the widening stock scandal. Earlier, prosecutors seized Hiromasa Ezoe, former chairman of Recruit and the central figure in the scandal involving influence-peddling through bribes and bargain sales of unlisted stocks.

The Recruit scandal involves several executives and subsidiaries of the information services company who allegedly

conspired to buy influence by offering more than 1.5 million unlisted shares to at least 154 politicians, public officials and business leaders. Most of the figures later sold the stocks, earning sizeable profits.

While prosecutors launched criminal investigations last November, the scandal caused a public uproar and raised ethical questions about traditional money links between business and politics in this country.

In addition to Ezoe, prosecutors arrested three Recruit group executives this week along with two executives of Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Co. and a former Labour Ministry official on bribery charges and violations of the security and exchange law.

The scandal has severely damaged the administration of Takeshita because of links with Recruit by several members of his cabinet. Former Finance Minister Kiichi Miyazawa, one of Takeshita's chief rivals for the Prime Minister post in 1987, resigned in December after admitting an aide bought unlisted Recruit shares in his name.

Seoul police thwart anti-US demonstration

SEOUL, Feb. 18, (AP): Scattered clashes erupted today after police thwarted an anti-US, anti-government rally planned by dissidents and radical students in downtown Seoul.

Groups of protesters armed with rocks and firebombs fought running street battles with police when thousands of riot troops sealed off a downtown park and dispersed crowds trying to gather for the rally.

At one point, several blocks away from the park, riot police charged about 200 students trying to occupy the streets. Students resisted with a barrage of firebombs, but police quickly drove off the attackers.

Similar protests took place in other locations, with police chasing slogan-chanting protesters into sidestreets and alleys. The nation's largest dissident alliance has announced plans to launch a wave of protests for 10 days, starting with the rally today, which will climax with the visit of US President George Bush.

Bush is scheduled to visit Seoul Feb 27 for talks with President Roh Tae-woo and opposition leaders after attending the funeral of Japanese Emperor Hirohito and visiting Beijing.

"We are ready to block all violent protests," said a senior police officer. He said protesters using violence would be "sternly dealt with from the beginning."

Contingents of riot police wearing green fatigues and black visored helmets took positions around intersections, government buildings and foreign legations.

Security was reinforced around the US embassy. In recent months, radical students have attacked US facilities to dramatise their anti-American campaign.

Dissidents demand an end to US influence in South Korea accusing the United States of supporting South Korea's dictatorial governments and hampering unification of the divided Korean peninsula.

The nation's largest dissident alliance has announced plans to launch a wave of protests for 10 days, starting with the rally today, which will climax with the visit of US President George Bush.

Bush is scheduled to visit Seoul Feb 27 for talks with President Roh Tae-woo and opposition leaders after attending the funeral of Japanese Emperor Hirohito and visiting Beijing.

'Turkey has no designs on Cyprus'

NICOSIA, Feb. 18, (Reuters): Turkish-Cypriot leader Rauf Denkash has denied Greek-Cypriot claims that mainland Turkey had expansionist designs on Cyprus.

"Turkey has no expansionist policy. There is no reason for her to advance south," Denkash said in a statement telecast to Reuters.

"Turkey only pushed back the opposition forces in Cyprus to the present borders and saved Turks from being burned in mass graves."

He was responding to a Cyprus government statement on Thursday accusing Ankara of expansionism by trying to change the demographic make-up of the island.

The accusation followed a report in an opposition newspaper in North Cyprus alleging that Turkish-Cypriot leaders were understating the number of mainland Turkish settlers in their self-proclaimed republic.

Yeniduzen newspaper said there were 46,216 settlers not 14,000 as Denkash maintained. Cyprus has been divided since 1974 when Turkey sent troops into the north following a short-lived coup in Nicosia engineered by the military junta then ruling Greece.

In 1983 Turkish Cypriots declared a breakaway Turkish Republic of North Cyprus, recognised only by Ankara.

Bush urged to back Taiwan's right to self-determination

WASHINGTON, Feb. 18, (AP): Taiwanese groups in the United States have urged US President George Bush to back self-determination for Taiwan, when he meets Chinese leaders in Beijing later this month.

Heads of nine Taiwanese-American and Taiwanese US residents' groups asked Bush in a joint letter "to state explicitly to the Beijing authorities that the US government supports the right of the people of Taiwan to self-determination."

The last four American residents "have progressively weakened US support for the right of Taiwan's people to decide that question for themselves," said the letter released to news media. The letter urged Bush "not to make any concessions to the People's Republic of China on Taiwan's international status."

Support

The Nationalists fled to the island province of Taiwan after the communists defeated them in a civil war that ended in 1949 with the founding of the People's Republic of China. Nevertheless, the government of Taiwan has continued to claim to represent all of China. The Beijing government considers Taiwan a province of the mainland.

The United States recognises the government in Beijing and has not supported a separatist movement in Taiwan.



Bush: pressure

"There is no need for the US to defer to China on the issue of Taiwan's future," because improved relations with the Soviet Union have made obsolete "the idea of playing the China card against the USSR," the letter said.

It asserted that mainland China "needs US capital, technology and diplomatic support as much as the US needs China's markets and friendship."

The letter was signed by David Tsai, a US Library of Congress scholar who is president of Washington's centre for Taiwan International Relations, a study group that advocates self-determination and decreased diplomatic isolation for Taiwan without explicitly rejecting the alternatives of unification with the mainland or independence.

Tsai said the letter also was sent on behalf of presidents of eight other organisations including Ben Hsieh, president of the Taiwanese Christian Church Council of North America, which is made up of 31 congregations, and heads of Taiwanese women's, literary, medical, academic and other professional groups.

Doubts

Robert Scalapino, an American expert on Asia, said that Chinese leaders would likely raise the Taiwan issue but it was doubtful the Bush administration would press Taiwan into unification negotiations "because it would reopen the China issue in American politics."

Although not formally recognised as such, "in my opinion, the government of Taiwan is independent today... Taiwan has exercised the right to make its own decisions for a great many years," Scalapino, director of the East Asian Institute at the University of California in Berkeley, told a press briefing on Asian affairs.

But if Taiwan formally declared independence, he continued, "I think the chances are high the PRC would take some form of retaliatory action... and it's also clear that neither of Taiwan's two principal partners, the United States and Japan, favour such a course because it would be destabilising."



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Drug shortage problem solved, says Mudaf

THE Ministry of Public Health has solved the problem of drug shortage according to Ibrahim A. Mudaf, acting undersecretary at the ministry.

He said that the problem arose due to the lack of some heart disease medicines due to deficit of budget.

Mudaf pointed out that the ministry received an additional budget to recover the shortage of drugs.

He added that the estimated budget was KD6 million and firmly denied the KD21 million which was mentioned in one of the local dailies.

Standard

All government hospitals and health centres were provided with the necessary drugs, he added.

The official pointed out that health services in Kuwait are as high in standard as that of most advanced countries in the world.

Mudaf said that medical mistakes may be committed by the most specialised medical establishments in the world, and pointed out that the ministry investigates all mistakes committed by the medical staff in government and private hospitals, thoroughly.

The ministry is still working to develop its health services, he said.

Osaimi message to Omani counterpart

MUSCAT, Feb 18, (KUNA): The Omani Foreign Undersecretary for Political Affairs Haidh Bin Tareq today received a message addressed to Omani State Minister for Foreign Affairs Yusuf Bin Alawi from his Kuwaiti counterpart Saoud Al Osaimi.

Radio Muscat reported that the message, dealing with bilateral relations and means of fostering them in various spheres, was delivered this morning by Kuwaiti ambassador here Abdul Wahab Yousef Al Adsani.

Health welfare public authority

KUWAIT, Feb 18, (KUNA): Health Minister Dr Abdel Razzaq Al Abdel Razzaq issued a decision on setting up a committee to study a draft law on establishing a health welfare public authority.

The committee which composed of a number of senior Health Ministry officials will study the possible application of the system and its contribution in developing health services and austerity plans.

The committee includes Director of Kuwait Institute for Medical Specialties Dr Abdullah Al Kafal, Director of Sabah Health Affairs Mahmoud Al Bader, Professor at the Medicine Faculty Dr Mustafa Al Khojaji as well as other senior officials at the ministry.

Arafat message to Yazed

ABU DHABI, Feb 18, (KUNA): President of the United Arab Emirates Sheikh Yazed Bin Sultan Al Nahayan today received a message from Chairman of PLO Yasser Arafat.

The message dealt with development of the Palestinian cause and the peace settlement in the Middle East and development of the uprising in the occupied territories.

The message was conveyed by head of the PLO's political department Farouk Qaddoumi.

Mazidi meets S. Yemen minister

KUWAIT, Feb 18, (KUNA): State Minister for Services Affairs Issa Al Mazidi conferred in his office today with South Yemeni Minister of Communications Saleh Abdullah Muthana.

The discussions, in the presence of the Yemeni Ambassador to Kuwait Awad Salem, dealt with joint co-operation especially in field of Civil Aviation.

They also reviewed results of the board's latest meeting which dealt with prominent topics on the agenda of the commissioned representatives scheduled for next May in France.

The secretary-general stopped here for one day on his way to Singapore to attend the conference and exhibition of Asian telecommunications.

KAC denies hike in ticket prices

THE director of public relations at the Kuwait Airways Corporation (KAC) Abdullah Al Nafisi has denied any intention by KAC to increase the price of tickets and confirmed efforts were being made in co-ordination with the Civil Aviation personnel to put an end to unreasonable price reductions offered by certain travel agencies.

Nafisi said KAC had, of late increased free luggage allowance per passenger, from 30 kg to 40 kg for first-class passengers.

He said KAC was planning to expand its routes to Eastern Europe, and that deliberations were currently going on to obtain the necessary approvals from the concerned governments.

Nafisi described Kuwaiti pilots as highly qualified and competent saying that the existing number of Kuwaiti pilots was 41 out of 88 and 95 co-pilots out of 97.

He said that KAC constantly developed specialist training courses for Kuwaiti technical staff, and that Kuwaitis constituted more than fifty per cent of the total staff.

Nafisi also added that KAC had of late introduced a new privileged service to its first-class passengers which included menus for various types of Kuwaiti cuisine and movies showing the traditional Kuwaiti way of life.

KPTC to operate new bus routes

KUWAIT'S Public Transport Company (KPTC) Board Chairman, Abdul Wahab Al Haroun, has said that the company will soon operate new routes in Kuwait and will develop its current operating routes.

He stated that he has signed a number of contracts to purchase modern middle size buses. Haroun said that the company recently added two new ferry boats to its sea fleet, which are speedy and capable of carrying a large number of passengers.

New routes

In an interview with a local daily, he added that KPTC is working very hard to boost and develop its services and administration. An agreement was signed between Kuwait and Jordan to start the operation of a new route between the two countries. Passengers will be able to reach

Arab capitals of the Mediterranean by using this route.

The company will soon open a route between Kuwait and Basra, the official said.

The company's objective is to increase the number of passengers in addition to linking modern model areas. Other future plans include establishing some company garages, especially those owned by the Ministry of the Interior.

Haroun said that the company will hold several training courses in order to train Kuwaiti manpower.

KPTC has a capital estimated at KD40 million with an annual budget of nearly KD66 million. Haroun pointed out that the company did not accept government subsidies during the past seven years and has shown a small profit in the last five years.

Hanan Village to be officially inaugurated February 24

KHARTOUM, Feb 18, (KUNA): A \$7-million refugee children's village financed by a group of benevolent Kuwaiti ladies will be officially inaugurated in eastern Sudan next Friday Feb 24, under the patronage of the Prime Minister Sadiq Al Mahdi.

The project, which took five years to complete, was undertaken by the Kuwaiti Women Cultural and Social Society and 'Osra' (My Family) magazine.

'Hanan Village' will cater for children of the refugees living in the Sudan specially the orphans with 20 per cent of the total intake reserved for orphan Sudanese children.

The village, some 650 kilometres east of Khartoum on the Red Sea, is designed to provide educational and training opportunities for the children of refugees at nursery, elementary and intermediate levels and technical training.

Other facilities in the village include boarding houses, a clinic, a dining hall, a shopping centre, a mosque, a power station, water works, a bakery and dairy farm in addition to sport facilities.

Premier Mahdi, who is patronising the opening ceremony, is expected to deputise someone else since he will be leaving for Tokyo to attend the funeral of Emperor Hirohito due there the same day.

Six Arab countries accepted in UN sub-committee on narcotics

VIENNA, Feb 18, (KUNA): The International Committee on Narcotics, an affiliate of the UN Socio-Economic Council, has accepted the membership of Kuwait, United Arab Emirates, Yemen Arab Republic, Oman, Lebanon and Saudi Arabia to its sub-committee on illegal trading in narcotics in the Middle and Near East.

The committee last night wound up its 33rd session here and submitted a recommendation to the council requesting acceptance of the said countries to its membership.

Boost

Lebanon's Ambassador Yehia Mahmassani told KUNA that the presence of Arab countries in the committee would boost co-operation among the member states with the aim of bringing under control illegal trading in narcotics.

He said the sub-committee for

the Middle and Near East would meet next February in Turkey to consider means of boosting regional co-operation between the member states on drugs control.

Fifty three countries including the five permanent member states at the UN Security Council were signatories to the agreement but it needs ratification of at least 20 countries to be effective.

Budget

The committee's chairman told a press conference here last night that the UN's decision to cut the committee's budget by 25 per cent within the framework of austerity measures could hamper its committee's activities.

The committee called on all countries, parties to the agreement, to increase their financial contributions in order to enable the committee to take the necessary measures for combating narcotics.

Study on Kuwait's natural environment being undertaken

THE Director of the Environmental and Earth Science Department at the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research Dr Dari Al Ajami has said that department personnel are currently undertaking studies and research on the evaluation, maintenance and protection of Kuwait's natural environment on land and sea.

Ajami told a local daily that part of these activities were aimed at identifying properties of the natural environment and associated ecological patterns to

determine man's negative effects from urban, industrial and other development projects, including the unguided utilisation of natural resources.

Evaluation

He said the department had been busy evaluating the various factors affecting oil pollutants at sea, and different phases through which these pollutants pass including physical operations, evaporation, dispersion, decomposition, absorption and sedimentation, which were fol-

Drug addiction is not a major problem, says CID director

DRUG addiction in Kuwait is not a major problem and according to available statistics, addiction in Kuwait is not widespread, according to a high ranking Kuwaiti official.

Col. Abdullah Al Fares, director-general of the Criminal Investigations Department (CID) described as baseless, press reports that drug addiction and similar bad habits like inhalation of some materials like Patex was widespread among youth and school boys. He also denied that drug addiction is widespread among school boys.

CID personnel have been successful in apprehending people who tried to plant some narcotics in their gardens and pharmacists selling drugs and pills.

The ministry will soon be introducing the services of dogs to sniff drugs which will enhance the capabilities of customs and



Col. Abdullah Al Fares

police personnel, Fares said. He added that in 1988, 330 persons were arrested for either trading, smuggling or possession of drugs and narcotics. A total of

over 64.5 kilos of hashish, 4.5 kilos of heroin, about 9 kilos of opium, over 5 kilos of marijuana, and over 1.8 million of various pills and other narcotics were seized.

Drug traffickers are using sophisticated means to bring in the contraband. Some recently tried to smuggle drugs in car batteries. The car batteries were divided — the part containing the acidified water was divided into two compartments — the lower part held the drugs. In another attempt a merchant put 33 kilos of hashish in cigarettes exported to Kuwait. The strangest case has been where heroin was concealed within potatoes being brought in a truck from Lebanon.

The biggest quantity of drugs seized at any one time in Kuwait was 3.6 kgs of heroin during the beginning of last year, Fares said.

Control of expatriate manpower major achievement of five-year-plan: Awadi

By Mahmoud Abedin

KUWAIT'S major achievements of the first five-year plan has been the capability to reduce the growth rate of expatriate manpower and control its direction, according to a senior Kuwaiti official.

Dr Abdul Hadi Al Awadi, undersecretary at the Ministry of Planning who is also the general co-ordinator of the five-year development plan said that growth of expatriates manpower dropped from 7.5 per cent in the first year of the plan to 4.8 per cent in the second and 3.8 per cent in the third.

National manpower in the third year of the plan increased by 4.3 per cent for the first. This complies with the objectives of the plan which envisage achieving a demographic balance between Kuwaitis and expatriates.

the official said.

He added that Kuwait's development plan acknowledges the fact that achieving this target is a long range strategy expected to be achieved by the year 2,000.

Control

Awadi stressed that the plan lays great emphasis on achieving demographic balance through reducing the number of unskilled workforce — specially maids and domestics. Kuwaitis will have to extend their co-operation if these aims are to be achieved, he said. The development plan puts great emphasis on developing the national manpower and diversifying its contributions to the various economic sectors.

Speaking on the budget deficit, Awadi said that the first three years of the five-year development plan in Kuwait greatly succeeded in controlling

the growth rate of public expenditure and developing non-oil revenues. These positively reflected in reducing the size of the budget deficit from KD1,025 million in the first year to just under KD800 million in the third year. The state's borrowings from the local market helped reduce the deficit which was a result of the development plan policies.

The Planning Ministry will submit next month detailed reports on the performance of the five-year-plan during the first three years. The report is to be submitted to the ministers, undersecretaries and other senior officials for discussions and interactions.

The plan could not achieve a 100 per cent target goal due to external factors adversely affecting the implementation, Awadi said.

Hip surgery symposium opens at Al Razi Orthopaedic Hospital

By Lima Al Khalafawi

DR ABDUL 'Rahman' Al Zaid, Director of Al Razi Orthopaedic Hospital yesterday officiated at the opening of the symposium on "Hip Surgery" on behalf of Kuwait's Institute for Medical Specialisation's Director Dr Abdullah Al Rifai.

Speaking at the symposium, Zaid said that such meetings are a means for advancing knowledge of the subject in this country by inviting experts to expound the latest developments in this field in the world.

Prof. J. Sharrad of Sheffield University UK assessed the various aspects of hip joints. He commented that it is important to have a good knowledge of the child's medical history in this respect. A careful clinical examination should be done to assess the power of the muscles, the degree of shortening of the leg, studying the gait and examining the deformity around the hip.

Sharrad highlighted his speech with the use of slides depicting the range of movement and the symmetry between two hips. He stressed the importance of dealing with the hip joint as a whole and not just the joint itself. He recommended operative remedies and internal fixing. These techniques were first experimented by the French and subsequently adopted by all doctors around the world.

He added that such techniques need professional experience to understand the complexity of these fractures and avoid severe bleeding, nerve damage to the leg and vascular injuries to the bladder.

Dr Melinko of Kuwait's Faculty of Medicine gave a scientific review based on literature of the fracture of the acetabulum, its management and complications that are likely to arise during treatment. Such complications are manifested by stiffness

around the hip, wear and tear and osteo-arthritis. Dr Abdullah Malki, a consultant in orthopaedic surgery at Al Razi Hospital, took the floor to discuss the replacement of the hip joint. He said that when it becomes painful, stiff and could also be the result of arthritis arising out of old age.

Total joint replacements are devices which are composed of two components — a special plastic cup which will fit a special metal head called the spherical head. In a combination both act as an artificial hip joint. Complications are very rare and such surgeries performed in Kuwait have a success rate of 95 per cent.

The majority of patients in need of hip replacement are victims of accidents. In Europe the majority of patients having hip replacement are due to degeneration of the joints. The symposium will end Feb 23.

Social affairs donations KD15.3 million in 1988

PUBLIC donations paid for needy families reached KD15,347,222 during the last year, according to Mohammed Al Subaih, director of social services at the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour.

He said about 10,000 families benefited from the donations and that the ministry had paid KD1,309,825 as donations last month.

Donations given to individuals increased from KD61 to KD102 per month in 1988, the ministry has no intention of further increase at present time.

The ministry also helps needy families repay loans to the Public Housing Authority and pays all allowances for winter and summer clothes, the official added.

Subaih expects a reduction in the number of families who get support from the ministry after the opening of society development centres in different areas around Kuwait.

The ministry has already opened a centre in Bayan which offers some training courses for the girls of needy families. These girls will be given certificates which will qualify them to work in local establishments and ministries. They will learn typing,

tailoring and design. The centre works to make them more productive, he said.

Omani decree

MUSCAT, Feb 18, (KUNA): Omani Minister of Health Ali Bin Mohammed Al Mousa issued a decree according to which all Gulf Co-operation Council nationals, who are in Oman as tourists or residents, are to receive similar medical services as their Omani counterparts enjoy.

The decree will come into effect by the beginning of March.

Petroleum conference March 6-9

THE Chairman of the Organising Committee of Catalysts in Petroleum Refining, Dr Saad Okasha expressed appreciation to HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister for agreeing to patronise a conference scheduled to take place in Kuwait, March 6-9.

In an interview with a local daily, Okasha said that the conference to be organised by Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR) in co-operation with Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Science (KFAS), Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) General Secretariat, Kuwait National Petroleum Company (KNPC) and Kuwait University, will be attended by 220 specialists representing 30 countries including GCC member states and other eight Arab countries.

Viking-Islamic links being reviewed at coins exhibition

By Fathima Ahmed

THE link between the Vikings and the Islamic world is being revived by the Swedes, who are now showing a modest collection of early Islamic coins found in Sweden at the Dar Al Athar Al Islamiya.

The exhibition opened yesterday.

The enormously creative and innovative character of Islamic civilisation is less well appreciated by the world at large," said Sheikh Hussa Al Sabah, director of Dar Al Athar, who added that the role of Vikings in world history is "underappreciated" with much emphasis on their image as "pirates and plunderers."

She expects the exhibition to "raise appreciation for both Islamic and Scandinavian" cultures.

Enlarged photographs of both sides of eight silver coins, inscribed with quotations from the Holy Quran are on display. They were found buried on the island of Gotland in the Baltic. The coins, dated between 80 and 390 AH, were minted in Oman, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Syria, Egypt, Tunisia, Algeria and Morocco.

Swedish-Arabist Professor Bengt Knutsson, who is in Kuwait for the exhibition and a series of lectures, believes the coins establish a link between the Swedish-Vikings, who travelled East, and the Abbasid Caliphate. Knutsson said about 80,000 silver coins, minted between 80 and 390 AH (700-1000 AD), were discovered among German and Anglo-Saxon coins found in Birka, the presumed capital of ancient Sweden, and on the Gotland island, which may have been a trading centre over a thousand years ago.

The Viking period lasted from about 800 to 1050 AD and in the



Professor Bengt Knutsson

9th century. Swedes travelled east through Russia. An Arab, Ibn Fadlan recorded the contacts between the Vikings and the Muslim world in the 9th century.

Knutsson believes the coins may have been plundered by the Vikings or brought back by "peaceful traders" as presents for the wife or family. Fragments of decorated glass beakers, bottles, metal objects and balance scales were also found.

The contacts of Vikings ended abruptly in the 11th century. In the last two decades, Swedes have become "increasingly interested in Islamic heritage, culture and history," particularly after the oil crisis and the strategic importance of the region.

A cultural exchange programme began in 1984 when Sweden took part in a discussion on Arab poetry and literature. Noted scholars and poets from the Arab world took part in that meeting. This was followed by a festival of Islamic culture and arts in Stockholm in 1985.

Four Swedish universities — Stockholm, Lund, Gothenburg and Uppsala — now teach Arabian history and semitic languages. There are 75,000 Muslims, including neo-Muslims and those of Arab descent, in Sweden.

Meter system for call taxis experiment soon

KUWAIT'S traffic department will soon experiment with the meter system of payment for all call taxis, according to Col. Salem Al Roumi, the traffic director at the Capital Governorate.

On evaluating the success of the experiment, the department will consider the possibility of introducing the system to all taxis.

Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) citizens can drive cars in Kuwait with driving licences issued by any GCC state. Citizens of these states can also use their cars in Kuwait for any length of time without their having to transfer their number plate to Kuwaiti number plates.

The traffic department has installed a camera at Keifan flyover to apprehend drivers who cross the red signal. The use of the camera is experimental and if its performance proves a success, will be introduced at all major signals in Kuwait, the official said.

Drivers who cross the red signal face a fine of KD50 or a jail term of one month or both. The punishment will be doubled if the violation is repeated, the official said.

The state has built a large number of pedestrian flyovers to protect pedestrians from being injured. All people have been

requested to use the flyovers. The Ministry of Interior is increasing its patrols to apprehend those who cross roads under these flyovers, Roumi said.

The traffic department is undertaking several studies to reduce the rate of traffic accidents and alleviate traffic congestion and traffic jams. Last year a total of 320 persons died in traffic accidents, 1,006 badly injured and 2,772 were slightly injured. A total of 201,440 traffic violations were reported during the same period. Simultaneously a total of 592,038 vehicles were registered in Kuwait — 47,204 were new vehicles. A total of 28,892 driving licences were also issued during last year.

Traffic police have been trained to be courteous. Any traffic policeman found guilty of misconduct will be punished by a military court. Policemen in uniform or carrying the identity card have the right to seize the driving licence or car book. The driver has the right not to give his licence or book to the policeman if he does not identify himself.

Government driving schools are to be opened within one year. A school will be opened in the Capital and another in Hawalli. The present driving schools have been found to have performed dismally. These schools will be closed after the government open their own schools, Roumi said.

Contracts signed for establishment of public gardens in various areas

SEVERAL contracts were signed recently for establishing public gardens in Hawalli, Surrah, Qurtuba, Ardhiyah, Mishef, Salwa, Bayan, Hadiyah, Sababiyah and Fahabeh, according to an official source at the Agriculture Affairs and Fish Resources. The projects will be carried out within two years.

These gardens will be established in Mansouriyah, Rawdah, Nuzha, Keifan, Riqai, Rumathiyah and Abu Hulaifah. The implementation of these gardens will begin in July and are expected to be completed within two years.

Another 23 gardens will be implemented in the plan and will be distributed in different areas in addition to afforestation of 6,000 hectares in Sababiyah, Shadadiyah, Jahra and spring camping areas, the source said.

Telephones network at Hawalli to provide quick service

THE Assistant Undersecretary for Subscriber Service Affairs at the Ministry of Communications Khaled Al Houli has said that the ministry is currently preparing to endorse the new system at Hawalli telecommunication centre, whereby applications for telephone services will be processed after three days from the date of submission.

Houli told a local newspaper that under the new system, the telephone networks serving Hawalli, Jabriya and Nuzha would be combined and operated by Hawalli telecommunication centre and computerised to ensure quick processing of service applications.

He said that preparations were also underway to sort out existing telephone problems in Andalus, and that the new service applications would be

processed during July this year following the operation of the underground network which would replace existing aerial cables.

Houli also said the ministry was planning to expand the capacity of its telephone exchange office in Farwaniya by 10,000 lines to meet increasing demands. The expansion will be possible in June this year.

He stressed the success of the new magnetic card public call system following the installation of 14 card-operated telephone sets in various locations around the country. The ministry has invited a public tender for the provision of 20 more such sets for installation in various places. The magnetic cards were available in three different price units, namely KD10, five and three, the official said.

WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Young Artists Exhibition

UNTIL Feb 23: An exhibition of paintings and drawings by Kuwaiti artists in Kuwait will be held at the Dahiya Abdullah Al Salem gallery. It will be open from 8 am to 12 noon and 4 to 8 pm.

Ghadir Gallery

UNTIL March 19: Recent paintings by British water colour artist Patricia Millns will be shown at the Ghadir Gallery, Salhiya Complex, Mezzanine, Gate 5, daily from 9 am to 12 noon and 4 to 8.30 pm.

Sultan Gallery

FEB 21: An exhibition of paintings by Bangladeshi artist Mounirul Islam opens at the gallery, Thunayan Al Ghanim Bldg, Al Soor St. It will be open from 5 to 8 pm.

CINEMA

British Council

FEB 19 - 6.30 pm. This month's feature film is "Unsuitable Job for a Woman," an off-beat detective story starring Pippa Guard as Cordelia Gray who takes over a detective agency after the death of her boss. Admission is free but it is advisable to reserve seats. Tel: 2515512/2533204/2533227.

MUSIC

Piano Recital

FEB 22: Pianist Anthony Peebles will give a recital at the Kuwait International Hotel, Terrace Room. For reservations contact the hotel.

French Music Concert

FEB 20: French pianist Roselyne Masset-Lecocq and soprano Françoise Carré will present a selection of classical and contemporary music at a concert at the Meridien Hotel, Business Centre, Voltaire Institute and French Cultural Centre.

EXHIBITIONS

Islamic Coins in Sweden

FEB 18 - 23: An exhibition of Islamic Coins in Sweden will be held at the Dar Al Athar Al Islamiya (Islamic Arts Museum). It will be open daily from 8 am to 12 noon and 4 to 7 pm.

LECTURES

Vikings and Arabs

A series of lectures will be given by a visiting Swedish-Arabist Professor Bengt Knutson. The programme is as follows:

FEB 19 (6 pm): Lecture on Swedish Arab Relations Over the Centuries, at the Faculty Members Club, Kuwait University, Shuwaikh.

FEB 20 (6 pm): A talk on Arabic and Islamic Studies at Swedish Universities, Faculty Members Club.

FEB 21 (6 pm): A lecture on Swedish-Arabic Encounter and Poetry, Faculty Members Club.

FEB 22 (6 pm): A recital of Swedish poetry translated into Arabic will be held at the Kuwait Writers Association, Adeliya.

SOCIAL

Bangladesh Martyr's Day

FEB 21: The Bangladesh embassy in Kuwait will observe the Martyr's Day (Shahid Dibosh) from 9 am at the embassy premises in Jabriya. A week-long exhibition of Bengali books written by Bangladeshi writers will be opened by Ambassador K.M. Shehabuddin.

Feb 23: The Bangladesh Association will hold a discussion followed by a cultural programme to mark the Martyr's Day. All Bangladeshis are invited for both events.

KAPILKU Meeting

FEB 21: KAPILKU will hold their officers meeting from 8.30 pm at the Holiday Inn Hotel. They will discuss mini-Olympics, sing-a-like contest, the masquerade ball and other matters.

Dance Recital

FEB 22: Dr Padma Subramanyam, a noted dancer and scholar of Indian classical dance, will give a lecture at 7.30 pm. It will be followed by public reception. Only those holding an entry pass for any of the following dance shows will be allowed to attend.

Feb 23 (6.30 pm): Dr Padma Subramanyam will give a Bharata Natya (dance-ballet) recital.

Feb 25 (6 pm): Dr Padma will give a solo-recital called "Jataya Moksham," danced to Tchaikovsky's music. The dance show is part of the Nehru Centenary celebration. Both performances and the lecture will be held at the IAC, Funitees. For entry passes contact 3904817.

GOING PLACES

An artist celebrates the glory of sunshine

WATERCOLOURS of bright, vibrant images of Kuwait sharply offset the unusually dull grey weather yesterday.

The paintings by perceptive British artist Patricia Millns celebrate the glory of sunshine. Nearly all the 33 paintings on show at the Ghadir Gallery play with light and shade, with a delicate blend of desert and sadu colours highlighting the images.

The artist has an eye for the offbeat and the unusual in the mundane and uses extravagant colours to contrast the bright sunlight, creating neat and stunning images.

Palms Arabia, one of the paintings on show, captures the

quaint desert background in the shadow of green palm fronds. Others focus on the interplay of light and shade, an aspect that the artist finds fascinating, to detail the knobs on the Tareq Rajab doorway or to capture the courtyard entrance of the Beit Al Badr. Bright sadu colours adorn the interior of the Bedouin Tents, a series of four paintings, which focus on the warmth of the sun and the coolness in the shade.

Patricia Millns, who exhibited in 1986 and 1987 in Kuwait, seems more confident while experimenting with sharp colours and lighting effects.

FA



The British Ambassador to Kuwait, Peter Hinchcliffe looking keenly at a painting of Millns.

(Photo by Javed Basra)

February: 'I Love to Read' month

THE American School of Kuwait (ASK), Salwa, campus sports a festive look with heart shaped reading posters inviting pupils to spend an hour or more on reading. The ASK has dedicated February to encourage children to read during what they describe as the "I Love to Read" celebration.

All students of the elementary grades are trying to spend some extra time reading every day, a teacher said.

ASK also held a bookmark contest and asked students to create an original bookmark. Speakers were invited from commercial establishments to give a talk on the value of reading.

Good reading habits developed in childhood will benefit a person during his whole life, she said.

At the end of the month, boys and girls who have accomplished the goal will be given prizes. Each boy and girl will also be asked to join the "book character parade." Children will dress up as an animal or person from a book for the parade. Parents will be invited to attend the event.

Seminar on safety

A SPECIAL seminar on safety, fire fighting and evacuation was recently held by Kuwait Sheraton Hotel. It was organised by the hotel in co-operation with the General Director of the Fire Brigade, Lt. Hussain Al Ali and Asa'ad Abdullah conducted the seminar, attended by the hotel staff. Such seminars are held by the hotel to enable employees to cope with any emergency and for the safety of guests. Picture on right shows some of the participants.

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

9.00 Holy Quran
9.10 Good Morning
9.15 Cartoon serial
9.45 World News via Satellite
10.00 Al Thaman: Arabic serial. Starring: Jamil Awadh, Juliet Awadh, Ruhi Al Safdi, Iman Kamel.
10.50 News Summary/Good Morning
11.00 Khalati Qamasha: local Arabic serial, starring Khalid Al Nafisi, Hayat Al Fahad, Suad Abdullah, Ghanem Al Saleh, Maryam Ghadban, Ali Mufedi.
12.00 That's Incredible
1.00 News Summary
1.05 National songs
1.45 Special programmes on National Day
4.15 World News via Satellite followed by news and views about Kuwait to mark the National Day celebration. Regular features like the historical serial Ibn Attiya, starring

Majed Afrouni, Shafiq Hassan, Marcel Marina and cartoons will also be shown.
7.00 News Summary
7.45 Good Evening
8.30 Special programme
9.00 News in Arabic
9.50 Al Baheraat Al Marrah: Arabic serial, starring Hassan Abideen, Ahmad Maher, Muna Jabar, Fatima Tabae, Mohammad Rida and Anwar Ismael.
10.50 Aghani wa Nus: local variety show, hosted by Fatima Abdul Wahab. Directed by Ali Al Rayes.
12.30 News Summary
12.35 World News via Satellite / Holy Quran/Closedown

KTV 2

2.30 Opening and Holy Quran
2.35 A recording of the football match between Qadisia and Salhiya clubs
4.15 Tennis: a recording

of the Australian Open Women's final
5.50 World of Animals
6.15 Cartoon serial: Denis the Menace.
6.30 The Owl: a look at colours, how wasps build their nests and kite-flying.
7.00 Scientific Eye: tonight's episode looks at hot air, draughts, currents and balloons.
7.30 The Pursuit of Happiness: "That Pair of Eyes." David looks for a girl-friend.
8.00 News in English
8.40 Magnum: "Infinity."
9.40 Dive to Adventure. What's Happening Now: "Shirley's Landlord." Shirley's landlord doubles the rent.
10.30 Best-Seller: "Billionaire Boy's Club."
11.30 News Summary: Magazine "D'Actualite": Holy Quran/Closedown

Please note that programmes and timings are liable to change without notice.

NIGHT CHEMIST

Kuwait
Al Istiqbal Pharmacy
Safat Square
Al Rashid Pharmacy
Awadhi Bldg., Ahmed Al Jaber St.
Hawalli and Nagra
Al Zena Pharmacy
Hassan Jarallah Bldg., Ibn Khalid St.
Salhiya and Rumaitiya
Al Rashid Pharmacy
Amman St.
Fahadheel and Ahmadi
Al Wafa Pharmacy
Dabbous Palace, Dabbous St.
Farwaniya
Al Huwaila Pharmacy
Mustawaf St.
Jahra
Al Khalid Pharmacy
Opp. Co-operative Society

CINEMA TODAY

Al Andalus
Full Metal Jacket
Starring: Vincent Donahue
Al Salhiya
The Secret of My Success
Starring: Mel Gibson.
Helen Slater
Al Hamra
Saheb Al Soorah (Arabic)
Starring: Ahmed Mazhar, Huda Sultan
Drive-In
Gharani Al Afawi (Arabic)
Starring: Laila Alwi, Sabireen, Salah Qabil
Al Firdous
Joshilay (Hindi)
Starring: Anil Kapoor, Sridevi, Sunny Deol, Meenakshi
Fahadheel Open-Air
Jhoota Kahin Ka (Hindi)

Al Fahadheel
Oru Muthasi Katha (Malayalam)
Al Jahra
Pyasa Sawan (Hindi)
Granada
Shama Parwana
Sulaibikhat
Fleisch
Al Jleeb
Orkapurathu (Malayalam)
Ahmadi Drive-In
Latino

PRAYERS

Fajr 5.03am
Zuhr 12.02
Asr 3.15 pm
Maghreb 5.41
Isha 6.58



Two ASK students reading a poster for 'I Love to Read' celebration.



● The Bulgarian Ambassador Angel Mantchev on Wednesday hosted a reception at his residence for Bulgaria's Deputy Minister of Foreign Economic Relations Gueorgui Pirinski, who was on an official visit to Kuwait. A large number of officials and diplomats attended. Above: Pirinski (second right) seen with the host (left) and some of the guests. (Photo by Javed Basra)



Mexican Night

● Each Sunday, the Meridien Hotel, in co-operation with the Electronic Appliances Corporation (EAC), features a Mexican Night at La Brasserie. The promotion, which continues until March 19, offers traditional "south of the border" specialties.

A raffle is also being held. Prizes, by courtesy of EAC, include a colour TV, video, refrigerator, cassette players and an invitation from the hotel.

Picture on left: EAC Sales and Marketing Manager Rafeeq Al Abbar (right) with Meridien's Public Relations Manager Yusuf Al Ghabra.



● The Flying Arrows Sporting Centre last week held a Valentine's Day dinner-dance party for members and their families at the SAS Tent. Above: Some of the guests dancing to music at the party. (Photo by Mohd Abbas)

Kuwait University
Faculty of Eng. & Petroleum
Dept. of Civil Eng.

Announcement

The Department of Civil Engineering of Kuwait University is pleased to invite engineers and researchers to a lecture titled:

A Procedure for Quality Control of Concrete

Speaker: Professor Mohfuz Al-Royees
Civil Engineering Department
Kuwait University

Date: Sunday, 19/2/1989
Time: 6:30 pm
Place: College of Engineering & Petroleum Bldg. Kt 5 - Khaldiya.

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CHARITY is the perfection and ornament of religion — Joseph Addison, English writer-statesman (1672-1719).

Israelis debate the once unthinkable Talking to PLO

By Roni Rabin

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM. (AP) Spurred by a US decision to launch a dialogue with the Palestine Liberation Organization, Israelis have embarked on a serious debate about a once-virtual taboo: the possibility of talking to the PLO.

While Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir insists he will never talk to the PLO, many Israelis are calling on the government to reverse its stance in response to changes in PLO positions and the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories.

The subject is debated almost daily on popular radio news shows and in newspaper columns. At least two members of the mainstream Labour Party, cabinet minister Ezer Weizman and ex-minister Abba Eban, have urged contacts with representatives of PLO chairman Yasser Arafat.

Once opposed to talks with the PLO, the broad-based Peace Now Movement, which turned out thousands of demonstrators in opposition to Israel's Lebanon war, now supports such contacts. "We must speak with them, we must listen, we must exchange words... we have to talk to those we want to make peace with," said Galia Golan, a leading Peace Now figure.

For many Israelis, accepting the PLO is not just a political but a psychological hurdle. For years, they have associated it with atrocities, such as armed attacks on families in northern Israel and the 1972 massacres of 11 Israeli athletes at the Munich Olympics.

But a public opinion poll late last year said 54 per cent of Israelis support talks with the PLO, provided it renounces terrorism and accepts Israel's right to exist.

What has changed is the change in the 13-month-old uprising in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and Arafat's statements renouncing terrorism and accepting Israel's existence.

Frequently rough Israeli tactics aimed at quelling the uprising have brought about international criticism of the Jewish state. Many Israelis also feel their own traditions are compromised as they see soldiers beating and shooting Palestinian rioters.

At least 370 Palestinians in the occupied territories have been killed in clashes with troops during the past 13 months, and 15 Israelis have died.

Arafat's more moderate stance has isolated Israel in the world community. The United States agreed to open a dialogue with the PLO in December, and several European nations are urging Israel to open such negotiations.

Shamir, leader of the right-wing Likud Bloc, repeated he would never speak to the PLO. His party's coalition agreement with Labour takes that stand, but dovish members of Labour are starting to call for changes.

At least two Labour members are among the four Israeli legislators who have attended meetings along with PLO officials in the past month. Weizman, a former Air Force officer and defence minister, said in an interview with the Jerusalem Post last week that Shamir should end the ban on talking to the PLO.

"Today the only party able to deliver what it promises in the territories — able to bring about an end to the rioting — is the PLO," he said.

But opponents — including the Likud Bloc, which won the most votes in November elections — say the PLO has not changed, despite Arafat's statements.

"They want a Palestinian state in Palestine, and that means not just Judea and Samaria... but Jaffa, Tel Aviv and occupied Jerusalem," said Likud member Tzahi Hanegbi.

Judea and Samaria are the Biblical names of the occupied West Bank and Jaffa, Tel Aviv and West Jerusalem are in Israel itself. Hanegbi said of the PLO: "The bottom line is they want a Palestinian state in Judea and Samaria just as a down payment to throw us out of here."

Risks Security risks are a persuasive argument. Ezer Weizman, who supports talks with the PLO, is aware of the danger a Palestinian state might pose for the Jewish state.

Israelis have fought five wars against Arab states in 40 years and still remember their vulnerable borders before Israel captured the West Bank and Gaza in the 1967 Middle East war.

"In our position, there isn't a whole lot of room for manoeuvring," Binayamin Begin, Likud member and son of the former premier, said on Israeli radio recently.

the ministers who quit — has said no government officials were expected to be arrested "for now."

But the scandal could ultimately force Takeshita to resign and lead his Liberal Democratic Party, which has ruled the country since it was formed in 1955, to name a new leader unsullied by money-power politics. That could be difficult, since so many party leaders have been tainted.

Refuse Takeshita has refused opposition demands to resign and call a general election, saying it was his duty to reform the nation's political ethics.

The handwriting may be on the wall for Takeshita, however. Voters turned a deaf ear on his pledge, trouncing an LDP candidate in what should have been a safe upper house by-election.

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The handwriting may be on the wall for Takeshita, however. Voters turned a deaf ear on his pledge, trouncing an LDP candidate in what should have been a safe upper house by-election.

"Japan has become a great and leading economic power," said Rukuro Ishikawa, head of the Japan Chamber of Commerce.

"But if the roots are rotten, the nation will collapse."

Some leading politicians, however, say they are no more to blame for the current state of money-dependent politics than society as a whole.

Limit Japanese parliamentarians are already the highest paid in the world, earning about \$143,000 a year, a compared with \$89,500 for their American counterparts.

But their expenses run almost \$1 million a year and they are limited to \$750,000 in corporate donations.

"It costs a lot of money to be a politician and it's necessary to hold (fund-raising) parties, lots of parties," said Michio Watanabe, a member of parliament and former minister whose son has been implicated in the Recruit affair.

Three key cabinet members, the leader of an opposition party and the chairman of the huge Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Co. have resigned over the affair.

Justice Minister Masami Takatsuki — a replacement for one of

Little to be happy even after withdrawal of Soviet troops

Afghans must now sort out their future

By Michael Battye

ISLAMABAD. (Reuters) After nine frustrating and unsuccessful years of war against Muslim mujahedeen guerrillas, the last Soviet combat troops have gone home, leaving the fighters to sort out their country's future.

On both sides of the bitter Afghan divide are parties, groups and factions often divided among themselves ideologically and tribally despite long efforts by backers to forge a unity of purpose.

The Soviet Union, supporter of the government in Kabul, and Pakistan and the United States, backers of the mujahedeen, say they agree on one thing — only Afghans can forge a government that will last and bring stability back to the country.

From the bloody war that most experts agree has taken at least one million lives, powerful political and military figures have emerged.

Following are portraits of the men considered most likely to wield significant influence over the immediate future.

President Najibullah — a big, burly man of 44 who became head of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA) in 1986 and head of state a year later. One thing the usually divided mujahedeen agree on is that Najibullah, a qualified doctor who for six years headed the feared Khad secret police, has no place in Afghanistan's future.

Diplomacy Ever since he took power, rumours have circulated that Moscow would ditch him as part of a peace deal with the mujahedeen. But the Soviet combat troops have left, no peace has been achieved despite intense Soviet diplomacy and Najibullah is still in charge. He heads the Parcham (flag) faction of the PDPA, which is itself divided despite seizing power from the rival Khalq (people) faction in 1979.

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In 1988, he got rid of the most powerful contender for power by sending Interior Minister Sayed Mohammad Gulabzoi of the Khalq faction to Moscow as ambassador.

"I'm sure Najibullah sleeps better at night now," said one Western diplomat.

Experts on Afghanistan say at the moment there is no obvious alternative to Najibullah, who has said he would step down if that would bring peace to Afghanistan. With the mujahedeen refusing to contemplate allowing the PDPA to take part in a coalition government, Najibullah's future remains uncertain.

Loyalty The loyalty of ordinary soldiers remains doubtful, although the officer corps is thought to be fairly dependable. Khad and the Sarandoi, the Interior Ministry security force, are armed with the latest Soviet weaponry. Many experts think it is possible most will fight to the death rather than face possible execution by the mujahedeen.

On the mujahedeen side, the war has thrown up dozens of contenders for power both inside and outside Afghanistan. None of the exiled political leaders in Pakistan is interested in negotiating peace with Najibullah, believing Kabul and other major cities will fall quickly now Soviet troops have left. The loyalty of guerrilla commanders to these Peshawar-based political leaders is not assured. Many commanders are considered likely to be more interested in keeping control of their territory than supporting the political ambitions of their leaders.

Influential Two commanders are thought likely to be highly influential in shaping Afghanistan's future: Ahmad Shah Masood — commander of Jamiat-i-Islami forces in the Panjsher Valley northwest of Kabul whose men survived numerous Soviet and Afghan attempts to dislodge them. In his

mid-30s, the former engineering student is the best known guerrilla leader and one of the few with enough understanding of military strategy and political mobilisation to make his "jihad" (holy war) rise above the level of a local struggle against the communists. He is widely seen as the commander who has had most success in co-ordinating strategy among guerrilla bands prone to fighting each other. A French speaker with a good sense for public relations, he has drawn many Western journalists to the Panjsher to report on the fighting

there. Masood, a Tajik, heads the Council of the North, an alliance of guerrilla groups in the Hindu Kush and the farlands near the Soviet border, and has a critical role to play in taking Kabul if no peace is agreed. His men have frequently closed the vital highway through the Salang Pass along which the bulk of Soviet supplies must pass to reach Kabul. In January, Soviet and Afghan forces launched massive bombardments to lift Masood's latest blockade of the road to open it for the final Soviet depart-

ture. Western diplomatic sources said. They said hundreds of people, mostly civilians, were killed.

Abdul Haq — the leading commander among the mujahedeen fighting around Kabul, Haq took up arms in his late teens and is now only about 30. A burly bearded Pashtun with a sharp mind, he has been active in organising civilians in the capital and caring for Kabul refugees in Pakistan. "He says he is not politically ambitious. In this he lies, although I think this is the only lie he tells," said one. He is said to want to avoid a full-scale battle for Kabul, fearing a blood-bath, and has drawn up a plan to strangle the city until it falls.

The main leaders based in Peshawar are: Gulbuddin Hekmatyar — his hawk-like, bearded face, blazing eyes and fundamentalist religious views often draw comparisons with the ayatollahs who steer revolutionary Iran, but Hekmatyar complains he is much maligned in the Western media. The most charismatic and controversial of the leaders of the seven political groups based in the Pakistani city of Peshawar, Hekmatyar heads the stronger of two factions of Hezb-i-Islami. A Pashtun from the north, his is the only party that cuts across Afghanistan's tribal barriers.

Clash He is credited with building the biggest and most disciplined of the mujahedeen groups fighting in Afghanistan but his critics say Hezb-i-Islami forces sometimes clash with other guerrillas. His close links with the Pakistani military intelligence, which funnels supplies to the guerrillas, has given him some of the best weapons from the United States. But some experts think much of his following derives from his ability to supply arms and money and may diminish significantly if fighting stops. He seeks an Islamic government for Afghanistan, but not the Iranian all-pervading

variety. Burhanuddin Rabbani — a soft-spoken former Islamic law professor at Kabul University who heads the Jamiat-i-Islami Party. A Rajik from the north, he is considered to have wide support among his own people and from other Persian and Turkic-speaking minorities. His party is probably the biggest and has a strong presence across north and west Afghanistan.

Younis Khalis — head of the other faction of Hezb-i-Islami, who is about 70, wears a long henna-dyed beard and looks like a tough Pashtun warrior. He has strong support among the populous Pashtun tribes around Jalalabad and along the Pakistan-Afghan border but little elsewhere. Among his commanders is Abdul Haq, the best known commander in the Kabul area.

Sibghatullah Mojaddidi — leader of the Afghan National Liberation Front and current head of the seven-party mujahedeen alliance based in Peshawar and counted among the more moderate elements. Another former theology professor at Kabul University, he comes from a prominent aristocratic family traditionally regarded as Kabul spiritual leaders. That is widely thought to give him significant support among Afghans. He also supports the return of exiled King Zahir Shah, by whom he was jailed in 1959, despite strong fundamentalist opposition.

Syed Ahmed Gailani — an hereditary spiritual leader who sold Peugeot cars in Kabul before the Soviet military intervention in 1979, he heads the National Islamic Front of Afghanistan and commands wide support among the three million refugees living in Pakistan. A Westernised man, who unlike other mujahedeen leaders often dresses in a suit, he has family in London and Washington who give him some of the best contacts in the West of any of the mujahedeen.

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Although the pro-communist government in Afghanistan is unlikely to fail to the mujahedeen guerrillas, there is no guarantee that religious fundamentalists who take over will commit themselves to close relations with either superpower.

"The Soviets now know that, unlike Eastern Europe, some people are not educated enough to accept the premise that it's 'better red than dead,'" said the last US Ambassador to South Vietnam, Graham Martin.

Losses Martin, who left Saigon in a helicopter with the folded US flag in his lap, said Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev had simply decided to cut Moscow's losses.

"It's not a matter of morals in this case. It's geopolitics," he told Reuters by telephone from his home in Winston Salem, North Carolina.

In a frank analysis of what he called the "Afghan lesson", one senior US defence official said the pull-out would probably lead to moves to contain superpower flapjacks around the world.

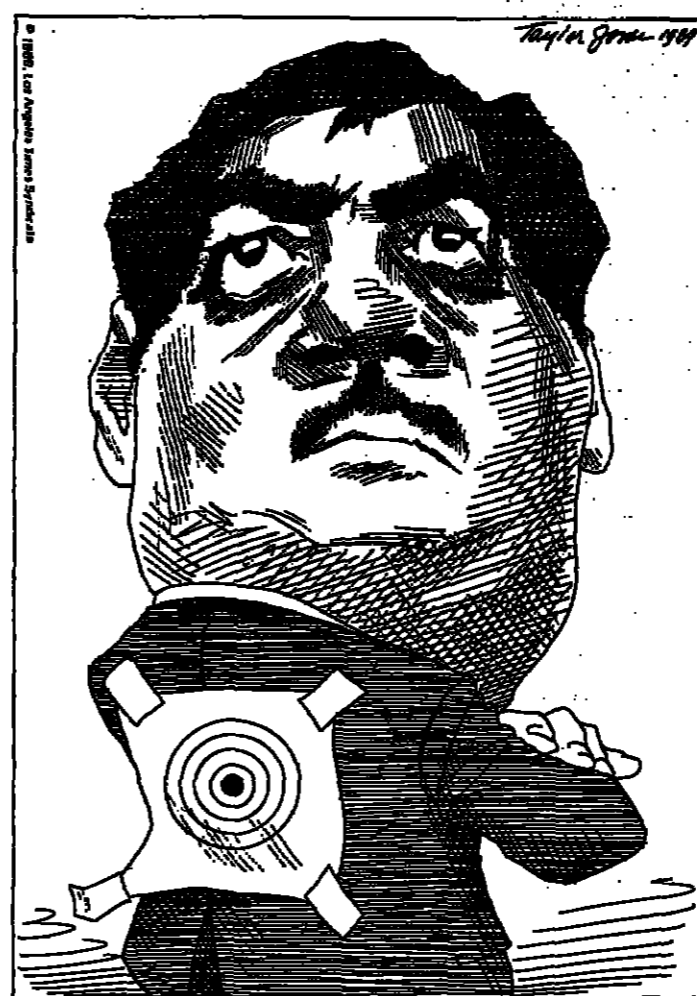
"I think you'll see more co-operation on Central and South America. The Soviets are already starting to stress politics over muscle in going for the trade money in Southeast Asia," said the official, who asked not to be identified.

Other private and Pentagon analysts note the United States should note the success of Central Intelligence Agency-supplied weapons to the Afghan guerrillas. They said the shoulder-fired Stingers kept the Soviet Army from dominating the air.

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AFGHANISTAN PRESIDENT NAJIBULLAH

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Afghan lesson for superpowers

By Charles Aldinger

WASHINGTON. (UPI) — The Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan after the eight-year war has left a legacy of lessons for the superpowers.

US observers say there is little cause to gloat and that both superpowers should ask themselves more carefully in future whether they have the stomach for "dirty little wars."

"There are sobering lessons for both Washington and Moscow here," Selig Harrison of the Washington-based Carnegie Endowment said. "And lest we forget Vietnam, the Russians are not grabbing helicopter skids as they go."

There's embarrassment for the Soviets, but they didn't get whipped. They decided the financial and propaganda costs were getting too high to stick around," said former US Defence Secretary Harold Brown.

Learn Military and political observers said in interviews that both superpowers should learn the following sobering lessons as Moscow ends its bloody Afghan involvement that began in 1979:

SNIPPETS

Ex-soldiers behind drug syndicate, say pushers

A BIG TIME syndicate led by dismissed soldiers are engaged in the distribution of prohibited drugs in Metro Manila, Passy City police said recently.

Capt. Gaudencio Cordora, chief of the intelligence and special operations group (ISOG), said two suspected drug pushers who were arrested had tagged former Narcotics Command agents as their supplier of shabu (synthetic cocaine) and marijuana.

The two suspected drug pushers were identified as Wilfredo David, 30 and Rufino Bucal, 37, both of Passy City, in a "buy-bust" operation.

Earlier, three other suspected drug pushers who were arrested, also pointed on an ex-NARCOM agent as their drug supplier.

Filipino war veterans fight for US naturalisation

SEVERAL American legislators have given assurances that they will support the bill now pending in the US Congress calling for the US naturalisation of Filipino World War II veterans, most of whom are now in their twilight years, have been fighting for US naturalisation so that they could avail of all the benefits given by the US government to their American comrades-in-arms. The vets have high hopes that this measure will be approved this year.

Ambassador to West Germany sacked

FOREIGN Affairs Secretary Raul Manglapus confirmed the relief by President Aquino of Augusto Cesar Espiritu, Philippine ambassador to Bonn, West Germany.

He said it is not his function to question the President's decision.

The confirmation of the "sudden relief" of Espiritu and his return to the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) home office before Feb. 18 was made during a closed-door session with officials of the Commission on Appointments (CA) committee on foreign affairs led by Rep. Antonio Cuenco.

The CA officially received the nomination of Narcisca Escaler as ambassador to Geneva, Switzerland.

The Cuenco committee, however, has not yet taken cognizance of her case as she still has to complete the submission of documents required in the confirmation process.

Bill filed to stop legislators from gambling

A BILL banning solons from entering and playing in casinos was filed yesterday by North Cotabato Congressman Gregorio Andolana.

Andolana said he sponsored the measure following reports that several elective officials have been losing thousands and even millions of pesos in casinos.

"In these times of economic want, such waste of money becomes highly immoral," Andolana said.

Cabinet to discuss Marcoses return

By Cesar M. Espino

PRESIDENT Aquino has said that she will convene the Cabinet crisis committee this week to finalise the government's position on whether or not to allow former President Marcos to return.

The President's decision to convene the committee is an apparent response to a call to convene the National Security Council to decide the matter. The opposition, under the Constitution, is represented in the NSC.

In related developments:

● Marcos remained in guarded condition in Honolulu's St. Francis Medical Centre.

● The Bishops-Businessmen's Conference said in a statement that Marcos should not be allowed to return.

● Representatives Victorico Chavez and Raul Roco filed a resolution expressing the "firm" sentiment of the House against Marcos' return.

● More than 1,000 Marcos loyalists marched to the embassy to demand the return of their ousted leader.

Aquino told newsmen Defence Secretary Fidel V. Ramos, a key member of the Cabinet crisis committee, had asked her for the meeting early last January — about the time news of Marcos' failing health broke out.

The committee will decide whether or not to adopt the Napoleonic solution which was recommended by the Cabinet



cluster on political affairs and reportedly approved by the President.

Local Government Secretary Luis Santos and Cabinet Secretary Jose de Jesus said the measure was among several options studied by the cluster.

The said Napoleonic solution — where Marcos would be allowed to return 19 years after his death — was deemed by the cluster members as the one that would best serve the interest of the people.

But although the Napoleonic solution has been approved by the President, according to Santos and De Jesus, this will have to be covered by an executive order to make it official.

In Honolulu, Marcos lawyer said his client's health is too fragile to let disputes over billions of dollars delay his return to his country.

Lawyer Richard Hibe also confirmed that he and defence attorney John Bartko met with a representative of Aquino in San

Francisco, California and that they refused to make monetary offers in exchange for Marcos' return.

He also said the Manila government "has got to come to grips with the fact that it's never going to see Mr Marcos in court."

On the chance of a plea bargain with the US on the racketeering charges against Marcos, Hibe said they were "slim because Mr Marcos would never plead guilty to anything."

In its statement the Bishops-Businessmen's Conference on Human Development said left and right-wing extremists would exploit Marcos' return to further divide the country.

"There is a serious risk, therefore, that the return of former President Marcos, alive or dead, will be used by these forces to set back the hard-won accomplishments of the past three years," the statement said.

In their resolution, Chavez and Roco said the return of Marcos would be used by "political elements determined to bring down the government" as an occasion for fomenting unrest and creating chaos.

Earlier, Speaker Ramon V. Mitra called on the President to inform her of the House's sentiment against Marcos' return.

Aquino also said that Mateo Caparas, chairman of the Presidential Commission on Good Government was in New York to look into the disposal of Philippine property there.

Enrile reveals Marcos' secret message to Cory



Alano, a relative of former Speaker Jose Laurel's spokesman, Tony Alano, denied reports that Bengzon discouraged him and Sawit from proceeding with the trip because they would be doing "a disservice to the country."

Audience

Shortly upon his arrival in the Philippines, Laurel sought a private audience with Aquino so he could relay messages from the ousted ruler who was reportedly near death.

The President, however rejected Laurel's proposal, saying Marcos' messages should be made public.

Enrile said Marcos' request that Aquino "instruct her relatives not to bother Marcos about money matters" may have meant that "baka may humihingi ng pera kay Marcos (somebody may have been asking money from Marcos)."

He did not elaborate.

Hot goods seized

A SHIPMENT containing assorted motorcycle parts and accessories valued at P3 million was intercepted in Manila by agents of the Economic Intelligence and Investigation Bureau (EIIB) for gross misclassification and misclassification.

In a report to EIIB Commissioner Jose T. Almonte, Augusto V. Venturina, special operations group (SOG) chief, said the shipment in a 20-foot van was released from the South Harbour in the guise of "tractor parts."

Venturina said: "What seems to be correct in the documents and other release papers so far were the dates, the name of the importer, and the country of origin."

He said the commodity classification codes used by customs authorities for the shipment applies only to agricultural machinery and tractor implements.

POEA warning on exorbitant fees

Deployment of Filipino domestics to Hong Kong may stop

THE deployment of Filipino domestic helpers in Hong Kong might be suspended if local recruitment agencies continue to ask exorbitant placement fees from applicants, Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) administrator Tomas Achacoso warned.

Achacoso said the POEA is studying the possibility of suspending the deployment because of reports that many local recruitment agencies require applicants to pay fees higher than the prescribed ones.

The legal placement fee is only P5,000 but agencies ask for P15,000 to P20,000 per applicant, Achacoso said.

The required P5,000 includes processing, medical and trade tests and passport fees, he explained.

When confronted by POEA, the agencies claimed they were forced to charge fees because Hong Kong agencies demand loyalty fees of P5,000 from each applicant, Achacoso said.

To facilitate the immediate departure of workers, agencies sometimes ask workers to shoulder their own plane fares, which should not be the case, Achacoso said.

About 30,000 Filipinos are working in Hong Kong who may have paid the exorbitant P15,000 to P20,000 placement fees to their recruiters, Achacoso said. They earn about HK\$2,500 a month or its equivalent of P6,000.

"Pumapayag naman sila dahil para sa kanila ang P20,000 ay kikitain din nila in three or four months time," Achacoso said.

Suspension of the deployment is Hong Kong might stop Hong Kong and local agencies from taking advantage of the domestics, he added.

Aid package threatened US Congress concerned over human rights abuses

WASHINGTON: Members of Congress, human rights activists and US officials are troubled by reports of human rights abuse in the Philippines despite the Aquino administration's policy strongly upholding such rights.

The problem occupied most of a three-hour hearing last week of a House of Representatives' appropriations subcommittee.

Several witnesses echoed the findings on the Philippines in the State Department's report to Congress this week on human rights around the world.

The department said extremist violence, faulty law enforcement and ineffective courts caused some deterioration of the human rights situation despite the central government's commitment to liberties.

"Ms Aquino's government may try to pull the levers but the levers aren't tied to anything at

the local levels," where the rights violations occur, said subcommittee chairman David R. Obey.

"Many local officials and the local power structure are still left over from the Marcos era. I continue to have tremendous admiration for her (Ms Aquino) but there is a question whether she is going to get the kind of co-operation she needs," Obey continued.

"The Filipino politicians seem to be more in pursuit of their own future political ambitions than with specific solutions for immediate problems."

Obey said it could be difficult to maintain existing levels of US aid to the Philippines in a situation where military officials appear to be undermining Aquino's commitment to human rights by backing vigilante organisations in the struggle against communist insurgency.

US military aid is scheduled to

rise from \$85 million a year to \$200 million under the agreement concluded last year for US use of military bases in the Philippines through 1991.

Rights activists said President Ronald Reagan's administration played down the growing human rights problem and they urged the new administration of President George Bush to give it more attention.

"Expressions of concern should be conveyed to Philippine officials as forcefully as possible," testified attorney James Ross of the Asia programme of the US Lawyers Committee for Human Rights, a private group.

Although Aquino has reiterated her commitment, her administration has been unable to translate public concern to public policy.

The military has been able to stay successfully shielded from investigation.

Comic book culture should be monitored

By Vicente Albano Pacis

AT the close of the year 1988, it was found that 12.5 million comic books are read in this country a week. The total circulation of the Manila and provincial dailies barely reaches two million copies. Considering that a comic book has at least a whole week of life while a daily's life is only 24 hours, we may safely assume that at least 10 people read each comic book but only five read each daily. Thus, there are likely to be 125 million who regularly read comics against 10 million who read newspapers.

If this is so, then we are justified in saying that our culture is dominated by comic books. Is there anyone in authority who can tell us what the contents of these comic books are?

It is not implied that the dailies' contents are thoroughly educational, elevating and lofty. They are not above pornography, especially in their columns. But at least some of them deserve to be called decent, edifying, and informative. They also regularly carry advertisements, and the commercial houses who pay for them would stop patronizing them if they ceased to be decent enough media of information.

Assume from what we know of comics in general, it would be safe to assume that the comic books purvey in cartoon stories mostly fanciful or supernatural. In imitation of the original superhero strips, American as well as Filipino comics are peopled by characters who can accomplish any feat of strength, movement or speed or produce arms.

After she won the grand prize in the talent search programme, Ang Bagong Kampeon in 1984, the doors of the entertainment music industry opened for Regine Velasquez.

However, even when she started singing professionally in 1985, many people insisted that she was just lip-synching the songs of an established performer. The confusion was understandable since Regine's voice is really different from the usual untutored voices which young entertainers have.

The voice is truly hers. Proof of this are the 67 trophies and 50 medals which she got by tirelessly joining singing contests in the province of Bulacan, where the Velasquezes are based. "Pero hindi naman la hat 'yon first prize, Regine humbly says. "Maryo' n ding silver and bronze medals and runner-up trophies."

Didith Reyes' Bakit Ako

weapons or craft that the author can conceive and his artists can portray. The deeds of their heroes are at once the greatest and most impossible. It is probably correct to say that the world of the comics is a world of pure fancies.

Assuming that most of the readers are young people, are they learning or admiring and, perhaps imitating characters who exemplify courage, decency, honesty, compassion and patriotism? Or are their available heroes just simple roughnecks, uneducated and untamed who do not distinguish between right and wrong and prevail only by sheer brute force? Or perhaps the lives of such dubious folk heroes as Honsan and Alih are so glorified that their fans are to square themselves with society in the service of these fractured and frustrated heroes?

Are the legitimate and genuine leaders and heroes of the day being presented to the young in a matter that leads them to become decent citizens aware of what is wrong and what is correct under the law?

And what about the adults among the comics readers? It may be presumed that they are literate only in the dialects and hardly read nothing else except magazines of fiction, if at all. The dailies, even in the vernaculars, do not interest them. Are these marginal literates afforded an environment of literature that educates them to become law-abiding citizens?

If the comic books have nothing educational and elevating in their pages, it is a pity. They are the literary home of more Filipino readers than those who patronize the daily newspapers.

We suggest that a commission be created to look into the operation of journalism in every level and sector in relation to their functions and practices in a democratic society, compile its findings and formulate and recommend a code of ethical conduct for the print and electronic media and the "underground" of comics and pamphleteering.

This charmer from Bulacan has obviously come a long way since her amateur singing days and her Bagong Kampeon experience. More recently, she invaded the big screen via The Untouchable Family, under Viva Films. Her second movie, Pik, Pak, Boom, was shown at the Metro Manila Film Festival last December.

Regine: a charmer from Bulacan

Mahihiya became the key for winning since it was the song, which gave Regine all her awards as an amateur performer. "Sa arin noon, pagalam mong kanta ang mga songs nila Didith, Eva Eugenio or Imelda Papin, soyal ka na," Regine smiles, revealing that the other two singers are also her idols. "Wala pa kasi noon si Kuhn Ledesma," she reasons. "Pero nang sumikat na si Kuhn, ang kinakanta ko na. Dito Ba. I bought all her records, ginagaya ko pa ang voice niya."

However, Regine prefers to concentrate on her singing career. "As for the movies, the money is good, but I want to really establish myself first as a singer," she says. "Maadali nang mag-concentrate sa films later, para bang si Zsa Zsa?"

At 18, Regine has given schooling a back seat to her showbiz career. But she is not wasting time. If her schedule permits, next school year, she plans to pursue a college degree and take up Fine Arts or Music.

FLASSIK Nightingales spread message of love

AFTER the very successful Valentine extravaganza held at the Holiday Inn on Friday, Feb. 10, the indefatigable officers, members and friends of FLASSIK went to various hospitals to spread its own message of love to Filipino patients confined in various hospitals in Kuwait.

Needless to say these patients do not have families here in this country and rely on the generous

support of other Filipinos to help meet some of their needs.

It should be remembered that when the Nightingales' team led by FLASSIK president Grace Fe N. Covarrubias launched their candidacy for FLASSIK's different offices they promised an assistance network that would reach out to the different governorates in Kuwait.

Those visited upon were

Florante Malveda, confined at the Mubarak Al Kaber Hospital with meningitis and Angelita Pagay, who underwent the removal of a right kidney.

A farewell party for a Filipina forensic patient, who has been confined at the Hospital for Psychological Medicine, was well attended by other Filipino patients and the residents of the ward where she has been staying during the last two years for mental hygiene treatment.

giving supportive interaction and psychotherapy to the hospitalized patients.

FLASSIK invites referrals through their officers and hospital co-ordinators: Connie Uly at Al Razi Hospital, tel. 4943601; Chary Noponon at Amir Hospital, tel. 5624509; Shirley Eding, Paj Lapas and Vemile Garcia at Matera Hospital, tel. 4812348/481544; Susan Balatayo and Aida Caceres at the Hospital for Psychological Medicine, tel. 4843900 ext. 240/257; Marilyn Inductivo, tel. 3940600 ext. 2282 and Tess Balatayo, tel. 3940600 ext. 4521 at the Al Adam Hospital. Eva Sabay at the Jela Hospital on tel. 4572549; Sylvia Biazore, tel. 4818339; Gay Ohtsua and Junling Basilio, tel. 4810453 at the Kuwait Cancer Control Centre.

Arlene Argemino, tel. 4843158 and Ghida Navarro, tel. 4888006 ext. 143 at the Farwalya Hospital; Evelyn Dungs and Merlie Samia at the Mubarak Al Kaber Hospital. The chairperson for the hospital outreach programme is Esther B. Madamba, tel. 5312700 ext. 2445.



FLASSIK Nightingales, (left to right) Grace, Shirley, Esther, Connie and Pat visit patient Maribel at the Kuwait Cancer Control Centre.

Gift

FLASSIK also presented gift certificates to Zeny Tomas, confined at Al Adan Hospital due to a cranial operation. She will be leaving Kuwait next month since her illness prevents her from working further. The gift certificates were generously given by Al Bulbul Supermarkets and Ambassador Stores.

Another patient visited was Maribel, confined at the Kuwait Cancer Control Centre, radiotherapy unit, whose fondest dream is to join her family in the Philippines soon.

Aside from distributing material gifts, FLASSIK brings along team members qualified in



Gift certificates were presented to Zeny Tomas (with cap) at Al Adan hospital. She will be leaving Kuwait shortly as illness prevents her from working any further.

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Due to continuous expansion and growth, we have several openings in our Chrysler and Mitsubishi dealerships for experienced sales professionals.

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We offer excellent compensation packages and an opportunity for growth. For immediate consideration, send your resume and contact telephone No. to:

The Personnel Manager, (Ref:SSC)
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New slogan for the Bible

'Easier to digest than tablets'

IN THE beginning was the word, and the word was hype. A new paperback, an epic story of passion and power, money and murder, with a cover depicting the Manhattan skyline at sunset, is being promoted three weeks before its launch as the World's Greatest Book.

Posters have been printed for the Underground and bus shelters. Airport bookstalls and station newsagents have placed unusually large orders for the new blockbuster.

"It's the kind of campaign we would only give our top authors, such as Jeffrey Archer or John Le Carré," Miss Julia Young, Hodder and Stoughton's publicity director, explained.

"We put the skyscrapers in yellow and orange on the cover to give it an international flavour. It looks like the kind of book you would pick up to read on the Tube."

The New International Version of the Bible has been the best-selling modern English translation since 1979, but its relaunch and repackaging on March 2 includes revisions designed to slot Jesus Christ between

The new international version of the Bible, is being subjected to the greatest marketing campaign ever including revisions designed to slot Jesus Christ between Jackie Collins and Jilly Cooper on the bookshelves.

Jackie Collins and Jilly Cooper on the bookshelves.

For a start the title has changed. "It's just called The Bible now — we dropped the word 'Holy' to give it a more mass-market appeal," Miss Young explained.

Preceding the text, which resembles a modern novel with chapter headings, the guide to Well Known Events in the Bible includes Creation and The First Sin.

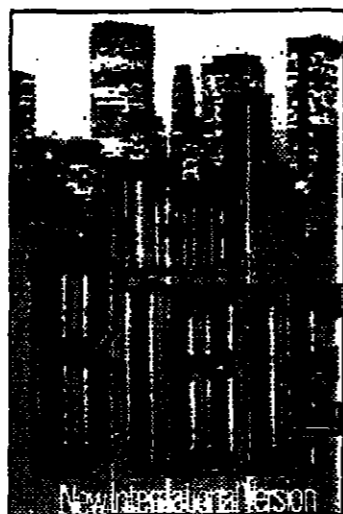
The reason for the greatest story ever told being subjected to the greatest marketing campaign since the Bible was written in 17th Century English, and is a book for the past. This is giving it a modern relevance," said Miss Young.

Dick Douglas, the company's editorial manager for the Bible, who has joined Hodder and Stoughton after 14 years supervising Bible production at the Oxford University Press, said he

did not believe popularising the Bible could alienate or offend. "There's no dreadfully down market language, it's not trendy, indeed it has a high literary quality," he said. "Anyway, the traditional appearance of the Bible wrapped in black leather can be a positive deterrent to the non-religious."

Hodder and Stoughton rejects the idea that the packaging detracts from the reverence in which the Bible is held. "Quite the opposite. The general view is that the Bible is written in 17th Century English, and is a book for the past. This is giving it a modern relevance," said Miss Young.

Dick Douglas, the company's editorial manager for the Bible, who has joined Hodder and Stoughton after 14 years supervising Bible production at the Oxford University Press, said he



The front cover of the book. The word 'holy' has been dropped.

He said the Bible was written in 17th Century English, and is a book for the past. This is giving it a modern relevance," said Miss Young.

Next sheriff of Nottingham is black

Tony Robinson, a 68-year-old retired bus driver from Jamaica will be the next Sheriff of Nottingham, relentless pursuer of the legendary Robin Hood.

By James Golden

THE next Sheriff of Nottingham, heir to the legendary pursuer of Robin Hood, is to be a Jamaican-born pensioner.

And as a socialist, he says he feels closer to Robin than to his predecessor.

Tony Robinson, a 68-year-old retired bus driver, will be the first black holder of the ancient office. He will be a roving ambassador, putting on ceremonial robes and a cocked hat to keep alive the city's association with Robin Hood and encourage tourism.

Confident

He says "I'm delighted. The story of Robin Hood is something I was taught about as a little lad at school in Jamaica. I had dreams as a boy but never about achieving this. It's a great honour."

In Robin Hood's time, late in

the 12th century, the Sheriff was a law officer and tax collector to the king.

Robinson said: "I know of the sheriff's reputation and he was by all accounts a bad man. That, fortunately, has all changed but as Robin Hood robbed the rich to help the poor, as a good socialist I think I have more in common with him."

He says he is confident that the public image of the sheriff being a white man won't be too much of a hurdle. "I don't think there will be any problems — I haven't experienced any since I came to Britain," he said.

A tailor's son, one of seven children born in Jamaica, Robinson spent the war years in America, working on farms and in foundries.

In 1960 he left Jamaica again, still looking for work, and came to Britain where he met his wife



The new sheriff of Nottingham, meets Robin Hood.

Beryl, who is white.

Now he has four grand-children, is city councillor and vice-chairman of Nottingham Community Race Relations Council. He was chosen as sheriff by the controlling labour group.

"This is a great achievement for the black community, something they are going to be proud of," he said. "We preach equal opportunity for all and this proves it. I look upon my role as one of promoting Nottingham as much as I can in the field of

tourism. I want to visit schools and hospitals as well."

The Lord Mayor's secretary, David Taylor, said: "The sheriff is an ambassador for the city. He greets tourists, particularly Americans, who like to meet the official association with the legend. As sheriff he can travel all over the world promoting the city. If we abolished what is a ceremonial role, there would be a worldwide outcry."

The appointment, held for a year, will be confirmed in May.

Barbie doll turns 30; trendier and richer

By George Garties

HAWTHORNE, California. (AP) Barbie turns 30 this year, and the phenomenally successful fashion doll is trendier and richer than ever.

For her 30th anniversary party at the New York State Theatre, her maker, Mattel Inc., plans to deck her out in a dazzling pink ensemble dotted with silver stars, including earrings, a ring and stars in her eyes.

Barbie was America's No.2 selling toy in 1988, behind Japan's Nintendo games, according to Toy and Hobby World magazine.

Twenty million Barbies plus a range of companion dolls and accessories were sold last year, bringing Mattel \$450 million in revenues, said spokeswoman Candice Irving.

The company figures it has sold 500 million dolls in the Bar-

bie line in the last 30 years, and that its market share among girls from ages four to 10 approaches 90 per cent.

That tops the number of young boys who own one of Barbie's male counterparts, G.I. Joe, who this year, celebrates 25 years on store shelves.

Shrunk

More than 95 per cent of the young boys recently surveyed by its maker, Hasbro Inc., said they knew who G.I. Joe is. Two out of three said they own one, said Wayne Charness, spokesman for the New Jersey-based company that makes the 3 3/4-inch (9.5 centimetre-) tall plastic good guy.

Though G.I. Joe has shrunk nearly eight inches (20 centimetres) since his birth in 1964, the mighty plastic fighting doll's popularity remains as widespread and strong as any beloved tradition.

The soldier, sailor, and pilot figures have earned Hasbro \$16.9 million and generated about \$1.2 million in retail sales since their first year, Charness said.

G.I. Joe rates 11 spots lower than Barbie on the magazine's toy hit parade. Hasbro plans to celebrate his 25 years quietly during the 1989 toy fair.

The Barbie gala has been billed as an anniversary rather than a birthday, as Barbie hasn't a specific age. She's always been a "young adult," Irving says.

Despite the Ferrari and the magic hair that changes colour in the sun, this year's Barbie is little different from the 11.5-inch (29.2-centimetre-) tall doll that debuted at the same toy fair in March 1959. She sold for about \$3 then, compared with an average \$10 now, depending on the accessories.

Even G.I. Joe doesn't match that. The older, taller action

figures sold for about \$5 and are now collector's items. His descendants cost about \$3 for any of the 34 figures that include blacks, Asians, hispanics and women.

Barbie has gone through many updates, but her essential character hasn't changed.

"She's always contemporary, she's always wearing the fashions of the day," said Irving.

Hasbro took a different tact with G.I. Joe. In 1980, at the urging of loyal fans, Hasbro shrank him, partly to resemble other successful shorter dolls, Charness said.

Fresh

"He's constantly changing. He constantly stays fresh in the minds of G.I. Joe's fan," Charness said, explaining that Hasbro changes 50 per cent of the lines every year.

Toy industry analysts agree G.I. Joe's popularity comes from his changing line.

"You want to keep the line

fresh," said David Leibowitz of American Securities in New York.

But as the dolls' makers adjust to business and social trends, complaints also roll in.

"(Barbie) portrays a woman as basically, I think, an airhead," says Gloria Allred, a Los Angeles attorney who has made her name battling sex discrimination in the courts.

"They sell a home for Barbie, but I don't think they sell factories or offices or even an institution of higher learning," said Allred.

"There's nothing wrong with a fantasy, but I think it's important that young girls begin to have aspirations," Allred said.

Barbie's spokeswoman, Irving, said she's always been a career woman, starting right in 1959 as a teen-age fashion model and including nurse, fashion editor, Olympic athlete and business executive.

A rose by any other name...

By Audrey Woods

LONDON. (AP) Christian Dior, Anna Pavlova and the Empress Josephine found immortality in the rose garden, but the honour for ordinary people of having a rose named after them requires luck and lots of money.

For centuries, rose breeders have been naming new varieties in honour of the heroic, the beautiful, the famous — not to mention designers, dancers and royalty. It costs up to 35,000 pounds (62,000 dollars) to buy the right to name a rose, says Terry Kenwright, vice-president of the British Association of Rose Breeders.

It can take as long as 15 years to develop a new rose, Kenwright explained, and "breeders are businessmen. They want some reward for their effort."

One of the oddest and most famous cultivated roses is the fragile pink flower the French call Cuisse de Nymphet — Nymph's thigh. The British, who have grown it for 500 years, prefer to call it Great Maiden's Blush.

A flower named for a factory may smell as sweet, but would it so perfectly evoke the silken

cheek of youth? In the depths of winter, a rose catalogue with its mysterious and seductive names offers a promise of spring: eglantine, celestial and rose d'amour, Nur Mahal, the Black Prince and the splendid crimson Cardinal De Richelieu.

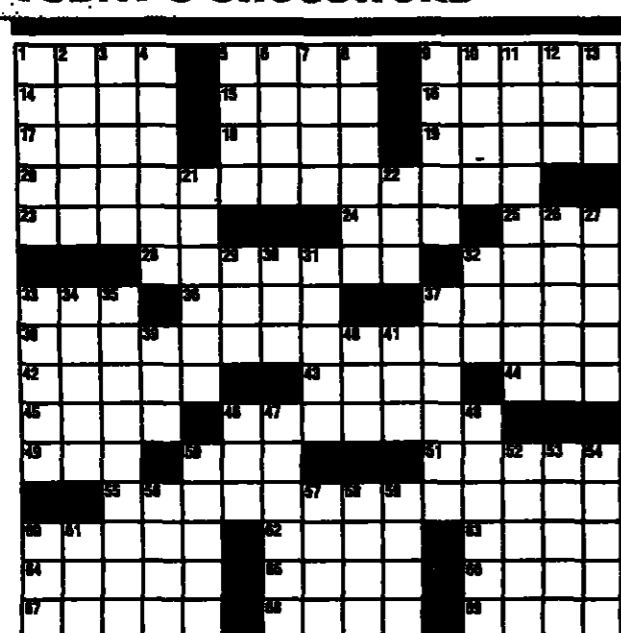
Even Rosa Horrida, described in one catalogue as "a strange, gooseberry-like bush" from the 18th century, appeals to the curious.

One of history's greatest rose lovers, Napoleon's Empress Josephine, grew every known rose of the day at Malmaison chateau and is honoured still by the pale pink souvenir De La Malmaison.

The unfortunate atom bomb, repeatedly quite a nice red rose, never caught on and disappeared from the catalogues soon after its introduction in 1954.

The unfortunate atom bomb, repeatedly quite a nice red rose, never caught on and disappeared from the catalogues soon after its introduction in 1954.

TODAY'S CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- 1 Bomb's kin
 - 5 Indian potentia
 - 9 Longshoreman
 - 14 Item on a French menu
 - 15 Borodin's "Prince —"
 - 16 Vote in
 - 17 "— is born"
 - 18 Henning of magic
 - 19 Prize
 - 20 Father of 38
 - 23 Follow
 - 24 Author —
 - 25 Birthplace of Constantine, the Great
 - 28 Plumber's gadget
 - 32 Confined
 - 33 Bad —
 - 36 Hailous
 - 37 Angry
 - 38 Anne Boleyn's daughter
 - 42 Violet start
 - 43 "And then there were —"
 - 44 Dusk, to Donne
 - 45 "— long way to —"
 - 46 Motorists' worry
 - 49 Ingrid's daughter
 - 50 Play on words
 - 51 Tejo or Balbo
 - 55 Princess Margaret's nephew
 - 60 With force
 - 62 Car support
 - 63 — time (never)
 - 64 Feydeau's forte
 - 65 German region
 - 66 Come a cropper
 - 67 Carried
- DOWN**
- 1 Friend of 38
 - 2 Coloring matter
 - 3 Jackets and collars
 - 4 Phone
 - 5 Tease
 - 6 Stravinsky ballet score
 - 7 "Bon —"
 - 8 Sock pattern
 - 9 Author Ira
 - 10 Jal follower
 - 11 Portray verbally
 - 12 Old French coin
 - 13 Map abbr.
 - 21 "All's Well that Ends Well" role
 - 22 Man, to Caesar
 - 26 — nick of time
 - 27 "Three Lives" author
 - 29 White yam
 - 30 Zero
 - 31 Shine
 - 32 Grand —
 - 33 "— kleine Nachtmusik"
 - 33 Rig
 - 34 Colored or layered start
 - 35 Reserves
 - 37 European peninsula
 - 39 — of Good
 - 40 Menagerie
 - 41 Irish gods' mother
 - 46 Sue for payment
 - 47 Prepare for shipping
 - 48 Punishment, in Prussia
 - 50 Ached
 - 52 Russian range
 - 53 Former Red head
 - 54 "— Mio"
 - 56 Flat base
 - 57 Student's concern
 - 58 Silent one
 - 59 Queen of the gods
 - 60 Fore's opposite
 - 61 See 53 Down

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

ATLAS SCAR LID
LOOSE OHIO DONE
LOCHLOMOND ECON
ILK EVER SILKS
SSE CASA THE
ATL OPSIDED
TIDE EELY ORO
CONSENT DEMOINT
OUT OTIS ORTS
BRETHREN END
REO DANE SIT
ELATE EGGY ASI
EROS LOXORRAGEL
RICE LUER ALERT
LINK AUDE GASES

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠AKQ6 ♥95 ♦AKJ3 ♣J63
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♦ Pass 1 ♥ Pass
? What do you bid now?

Q.2—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠KJ63 ♥A106 ♦AKJ5 ♣87
What is your opening bid?

Q.3—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠KQ73 ♥A106 ♦AKJ5 ♣87
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 NT Pass 2 ♠ Pass
? What action do you take?

Q.4—Neither vulnerable, as South

you hold:
♠KQ73 ♥A106 ♦AKJ5 ♣87
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 NT Pass 3 ♠ Pass
? What do you bid now?

Q.5—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠95 ♥KQ73 ♦AKJ5 ♣AJ6
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 NT Pass 2 ♠ Pass
? What action do you take?

Q.6—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠83 ♥AQ42 ♦AK63 ♣J94
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ 2 ♠ ?
What action do you take?

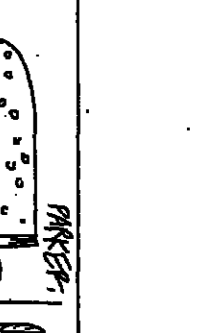
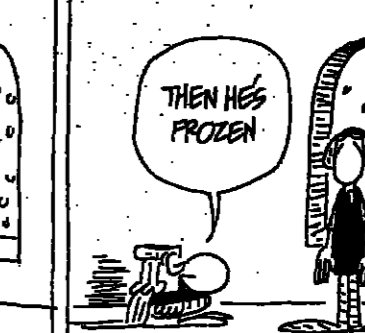
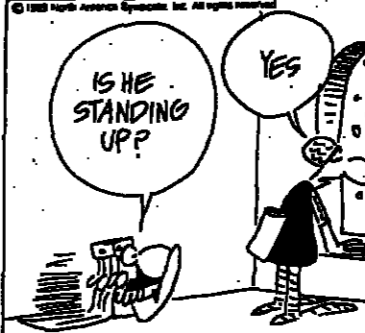


"Catch of the Day is fish fingers."

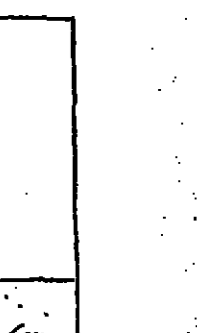
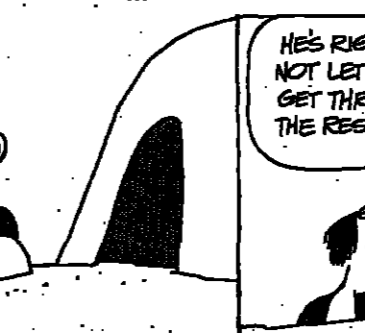


"Our 3 minutes must nearly be up, Mother."

THE WIZARD OF ID



B.C.



YOUR STARS



Aries (March 20 - April 18)

The Sun's better influence will help you to come to the right conclusion. You should not try to have everything your own way. Listen also to what others are saying. Be confident.



Taurus (April 19 - May 19)

Try not to get into an argument and if you do not become too personally involved. There is nothing to feel superior about, so don't. Try to show a little more goodwill towards others. Be reliable.



Gemini (May 20 - June 20)

You will be better able to adapt to the circumstances. However, that does not mean you should compromise. 5 and 24 are your lucky numbers. Make sure you do not put on weight. Be loyal.



Cancer (June 21 - July 21)

The Sun's good influence coupled with that of Mars and Jupiter will help you to be more independent. You will be able to cope with an abiding personal problem. Take really good care of your health. Be pertinent.



Leo (July 22 - Aug 21)

The Moon's better influence will help you to stick by your principles. You may well have some good luck but do not rely upon it. Use just a little more commonsense. Be generous.



Virgo (Aug 22 - Sept 21)

Your health will not be as good as you would like but worry alone will not make you healthy. You should try not to allow yourself to be invaded by doubts. You will get support from an unexpected quarter. Be sincere.



Libra (Sept 22 - Oct 22)

You should make sure you do not exaggerate particularly where a personal matter is concerned. Do not do anything silly simply because you feel a little on the lonely side. You should try to take your mind off work for the day.



Scorpio (Oct 23 - Nov 21)

You will be able to spend the day in a amenable company. The Sun's less good influence will tend to engender a certain degree of restlessness. You should do all you can to avoid losing your temper. Be selective.



Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21)

Try hard to think more positively. You will not feel quite at ease and should avoid a touchy subject altogether if you can. You will be better able to come to terms with something that is unavoidable. Be hopeful.



Capricorn (Dec 22 - Jan 19)

Something you have done can no longer be undone, you will just have to learn to live with the consequences. You should have a little more faith in yourself. There is no reason to be suspicious of others. Be moderate.



Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb 18)

Nothing will happen quite as you would have wished, but you will be able to make the best of a relatively bad job. Do not allow yourself to be led astray. Avoid casting aspersions. Be respectful.



Pisces (Feb 19 - March 19)

The Sun's better influence will help you to get on with a rather difficult person. Make sure your partner feels loved and wanted. Do not eat so much that you put on weight. Be tolerant.

By Simon Haydon

PARIS, (Reuters): France has kicked off a year-long party to mark the 20th anniversary of the French Revolution, which toppled an absolute monarch and introduced people's power as a political weapon.

But while no one questions the significance of the events of 1789, plans for the bicentenary festival have been tarnished by political bickering over just how much celebrating should be done to mark one of France's most bloody periods.

The festivities appeared doomed to failure until last year, when a new Socialist government pumped large amounts of money and enthusiasm into the project. The Socialists replaced a Conservative government, which acknowledged the importance of the event, but balked at dancing in the streets over mob revolt, the terrorising of aristocrats and the beheading of King Louis XVI.

Hundreds of events will take place around France in 1989 to mark the 1789 revolution, and a mass of gimmicky is flooding French shops as retailers seek to cash in on one revolutionary fever.

Dolls, mock guillotines and even condoms coloured red, white and blue after the national flag are on sale.

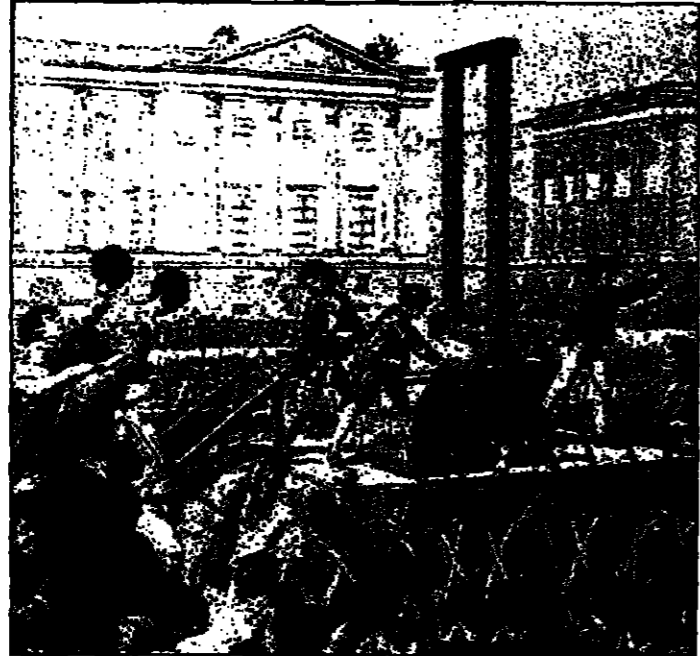
On the more serious side, historians have reopened debate on the events leading up to and following the storming of the Bastille prison by a 900-strong mob on July 14, 1789, and also on the execution four years later of Louis.

Climax

Bicentenary organisers say July 14 will be the climax of celebrations, when descendants of the Bastille stormers will march through Paris and an all-night ball will be held in the Place de la Bastille, where the stone-walled prison once stood.

The annual summit of leaders of the world's largest industrial nations will start on the same day in central Paris, and French President Francois Mitterrand has indicated he

France gears up for Revolution party



The execution of Louis XVI in 1793. France will celebrate 200 years of the Revolution which took place in 1789.

will also invite a large number of Third World heads of state. Celebrations began on January 1 when Montgolfier hot-air balloons were launched from all over France carrying greeting cards from any citizen.

In Paris, the balloons took off from the Place de la Concorde, where the guillotine accounted for hundreds of aristocratic heads, including those of Louis and his wife Marie Antoinette.

Celebrations

Main historical celebrations begin on May 5, when the imposing Palace of Versailles, west of Paris, where the monarchs lived, will host a re-enactment of the states-general procession.

The states-general, the 18th

century's equivalent of parliamentarians, marched to Versailles to hear Louis demand a bigger effort to solve the country's disastrous economic plight which was causing famine and stocking discontent.

But Louis made no reference in his speech to their demands for political reform, and the frustrated parliamentarians — locked out of Versailles by the king — formed their own national assembly.

On July 14, after invading the military arms stores at the Hotel des Invalides, a mob made up of tradesmen, down-and-outs, soldiers and mercenaries marched on the Bastille, the symbol of repression of the masses.

Two hundred years later, two brand new buildings will be inaugurated on July 14, one of them a grandiose opera house on the edge of the Place de la Bastille.

Organisers have promised "the biggest party in the world," from nightfall on July 14 until dawn, with music from the Opera House.

About five km (three miles) away on the other side of Paris an equally new building will be the venue for various world leaders, including new US President George Bush, to discuss global problems.

The Arche de la Defense, a massive cube hollowed out to form an arch, now dominates western Paris, presenting an unparalleled vista straight through the Arc de Triomphe, the Place de la Concorde to the new glass pyramid in a central courtyard of the Louvre art museum.

The leaders will meet on top of the arch, the first time it will have been used.

The final major festival is marked down for August 26, when the revolutionary National Assembly adopted a declaration of human rights.

Plans to celebrate the revolution have sparked harsh arguments around France as politicians differ on the value of its lesson for the modern world.

In the northeastern town of Thionville, a battle is still raging between local Socialist and Conservative councillors over whether a bust of revolutionary leader Maximilien Robespierre should be placed in the central square.

Communist town Mayor Paul Souffrin, describing himself as "an old admirer of Robespierre," approved the project.

But right-wing parliamentarian Andre Lacroix condemned the project, likening Robespierre's revolutionary fervour to that of an ayatollah.

The national media has also been getting into the act. French television organised a mock trial of Louis XVI, with the verdict cast by viewers' telephone calls. More than 50 per cent said he should have been acquitted.

Eternal city losing war against modern day ravages

Let Rome go to ruin, says historian

By Stephen R. Wilson

ROME, (AP): When an Italian historian recently blasted Rome as a corrupt, vulgar and violent city that should not be the nation's capital, Romans angrily protested.

But many also conceded that the eternal city that has survived sackings, sieges and the fall of an empire appears helpless against the onslaughts of the 20th century. Modern Rome is plagued by chaotic traffic, unhealthy levels of air and noise pollution, crumbling monuments and inadequate public transportation.

The city has virtually no major projects under way to prepare for its role as host of the 1990 World Cup soccer tournament.

With the city paralyzed by traffic gridlock during the Christmas shopping crunch, Mayor Pietro Gubbio ordered that private vehicles could circulate only on alternate days depending on whether they have odd or even license plates. But the plan was dropped after opposition from the City Council.

It became yet another example of ineffective decision-making, trapping the city's 3 million residents in the middle of competing interest groups.

"The central government has never really had any interest in governing Rome," says Francesco D'Onofrio, a former Chris-

tian Democrat senator who is one of many who favour moving government offices out of the historic centre.

There is a proposal, though still far from being realized, to build a government and business centre on 1,600 acres (652 hectares) on the eastern edge of the city.

"Rome isn't really a capital, it's a work of art and works of art ought not to be capitals," American author Gore Vidal, who has kept an apartment in central Rome for 26 years, said in an interview.

Popular As such, Rome remains one of the world's most popular cities. Tourists flock to glimpse its treasures of art, history and architecture, to savour its cuisine in a family-run trattoria and to visit the Vatican city-state located within its perimeter.

And for all its detractors, Rome still has its eternal supporters.

"Rome is what the Italians want it to be. All types of Italians live and work in Rome. Rome is a cross-section of Italy," said novelist Alberto Moravia.

"Rome has always gone to ruin, but at the same time it has always been very much alive."

While Italy has experienced great economic strides in recent years and claims to have surpassed Britain as the world's fifth-largest industrial power, its

capital has continued to suffer from what many describe as second-rate services.

Romans themselves have long complained about the deterioration of their city, but it took a verbal broadside by a Turin parliamentarian and historian to push the issue to the forefront of national attention.

Explaining why he spearheaded the defeat of a bill in the Chamber of Deputies that would have allocated 200 billion lire (156 million dollars) for restoration of Rome monuments, Luigi Firpo declared:

"Rome is rotten, asphyxiated by car fumes. It would be useless to undertake major restorations. It would be better to choose another capital for the country."

"No one is more arrogant than the Romans," he explained in an interview with Epoca magazine. "No one is more violent. They are vulgar. But more than anything Romans are corrupt."

Rome's woes are probably best exemplified by its traffic nightmare, an enemy that even Julius Caesar failed to defeat when he tried to ban wagons and chariots from the city centre in 45 B.C.

Today, 1.8 million cars and 200,000 motorcycles and motor-scooters fight for space in ancient, narrow streets. With only one municipal parking garage and no metered spaces to choose from, every day some

200,000 cars end up illegally parked, many on sidewalks.

The cacophony of roaring traffic, honking horns and screaming sirens averages 76.4 decibels, 11 above the level considered unhealthy for humans. But cars travel at an average speed of only six miles (10 kilometres) per hour.

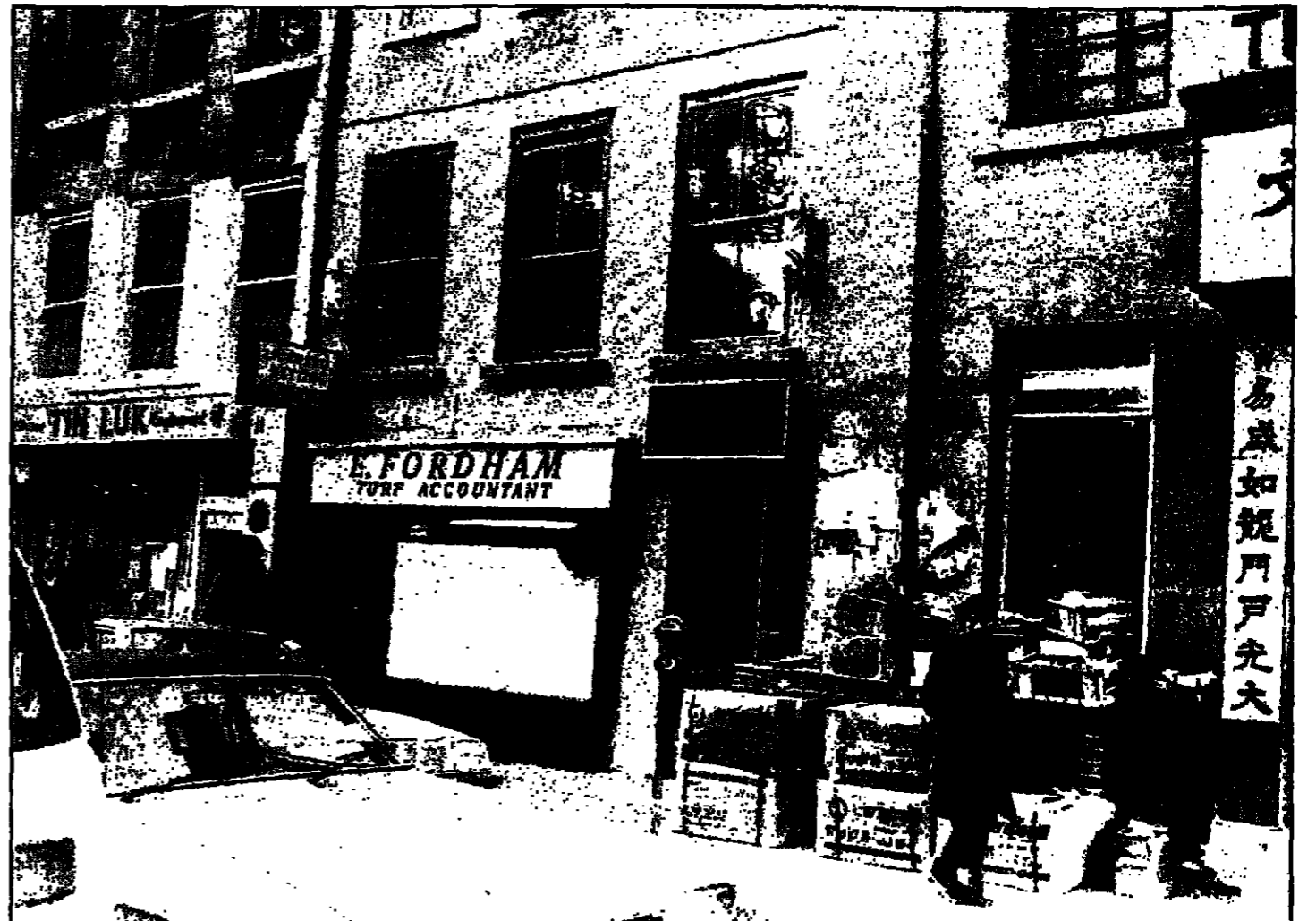
The gridlock never lets up because there is a mad dash home for lunch and, following a siesta, back to the office in addition to the morning and evening crush.

Early this year, the city barred private vehicles from entering the centre from 7 am to 10 am and 3 pm to 7 pm Monday through Saturday.

But the ban has only worsened the traffic on the outskirts and barely dented the congestion downtown because thousands of special permits are given to parliamentarians, government officials, journalists, doctors, judges and others.

"The Roman public eagerly wants the traffic problem to be resolved... but each of us rejects even the idea of leaving the car in the garage for two or three days a week," columnist Miriam Mafai wrote in La Repubblica, Italy's largest daily newspaper.

Those who choose public transportation are no better off. Buses are so crowded that passengers shove and scream for a space to breathe, while pickpockets have a field day.



London litter: to reach the trendy restaurants and West End theatres of Soho or Covent Garden patrons must dodge rubbish heaped on pavements

Dirty London worries civic leaders

By Leslie Shepherd

LONDON, (AP): Genteel London, with its manicured gardens, carefully preserved historic monuments and architectural treasures, is fast becoming one of the industrialised world's dirtiest cities, civic leaders say.

Some of the capital's littered streets have become virtual obstacle courses of trash bags, fast-food wrappers, beer cans and canine droppings.

Prominent Britons returning from abroad are always saying how littered London looks compared with shiny Zurich or spotless Brussels. The tourist authorities say the trash threatens to discourage visitors from overseas.

Report

"Too much of London has become dirty, degrading and depressing," says A New Look For London, the latest report on the city's litter scourge.

The report was commissioned after Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, accompanying French

President Francois Mitterrand from Heathrow airport to central London in October 1986, was angered by the amount of litter she saw from her limousine.

London, with close to 7 million residents, generates about 14 million tons of waste annually, including 2.5 million tons of household garbage, says Jeff Cooper of the London Waste Regulation Authority, a watchdog body. A lot of it becomes litter.

The problem is mainly cultural, says Judy Hillman, who wrote the report, and Professor Graham Ashworth, director-general of the Tidy Britain Group, a non-profit group. They said many Britons simply believe it's someone else's job to pick up after them.

To reach the trendy restaurants and West End theatres

of Soho or Covent Garden, patrons must often dodge overflowing garbage bags mounded along curbs and around lamp-posts as high and wide as sandbags along a swollen river.

At subway stations, commuters tread gingerly through a minefield of slippery potato chips bags, cellophane wrappers and wads of gum which clog the stairways and escalators. Cigarette butts make the pavement outside the Leicester Square look like a tile mosaic.

Most littered

In the City, London's financial district, stockbrokers and bankers dispose of 90 tons of newspapers, coffee cups, fast-food wrappers and other trash every day — most of it in bins or bags, but some as litter.

"London is well on the way to gaining an unenviable distinc-

tion of being the most littered and cluttered capital of any advanced country in the world," said Lord St John of Fawsley, Chairman of the Royal Fine Art Commission, which released the latest graphic litter report.

"Our streets are disfigured by rubbish," he said. Litter and pollution now threaten London's tourist industry, warns Michael Medlicott, Chief Executive of the British Tourist Authority.

"Litter turns off people visiting our shores," he said. "We have a bad reputation and a bad image. London is one of the dirtiest cities in the world."

The Tidy Britain Group has produced a 40-second television ad showing central London's Oxford Street crowded with pigs — the two-legged and four-legged variety.

A man is seen sprouting a pig's tail through his trousers as he opens a letter and discards it in a hedge. A woman at a bus stop tosses a used tissue under her seat, and her hand becomes a pig's hoof.

US capital could become murder capital

Violent Washington behind closed doors

By Deborah Zabarenko

WASHINGTON, (Reuters): America's capital could also become its murder capital if a record wave of violence continues.

Known as a city of public glamour and hidden grime, of national power and politics against a backdrop of urban poverty, Washington is getting a new reputation for murder, random shootings and easily available guns despite some of the strictest gun-control laws in the United States.

January was the deadliest month in the city's history, with 50 homicides reported and the murder rate rising to 24 per 100,000 residents — the same rate as Detroit, which has long led the United States in this grisly statistic.

This follows the year of the most homicides ever in Washington. A record 372 people were killed here, most of them by gunfire, in 1988.

Fatal

Two of the latest victims were a brother and sister gunned down in their home a few blocks from the Houses of Congress.

"We live here in America and we believed the legal system would protect us," a cousin of the two victims said. "We had sincere fears. We expected the police to protect life, not to lament the ones lost."

The violence need not be fatal to be frightening.

Known as a city of public glamour and hidden grime, of national power and politics against a backdrop of urban poverty, Washington D.C. is getting a new reputation for murder, random shootings and easily available guns despite some of the strictest gun-control laws in the United States.

Last week, two teenagers opened fire with semi-automatic weapons at a previously trouble-free high school in a quiet, upper-middle-class neighbourhood. Four students were wounded in a clash provoked by an argument over a seat next to a girl in the school's cafeteria.

Now, plans are in the offing to install metal detectors at Washington public schools. Gun-control advocates, including the City Council, have proposed a law that would make gun makers and sellers liable for crimes committed with weapons traceable to them.

Although the District of Columbia — which encompasses Washington — has tough gun-control laws, weapons are easily available in the Maryland and Virginia suburbs and they flow into town in part to equip street dealers in Washington's rising narcotics trade.

"Drugs are driving the homicides. The guns are doing the homicides," said council president David Clarke, who

proposed the new gun measure. "We worship the gun in this country."

The National Rifle Association, which anchors the US gun lobby, calls the plan idiotic, an attempt to blame gun merchants for crimes that police should prevent.

But a spokesman for Mayor Marion Barry says police have a near-impossible task fighting a burgeoning drug problem, especially the smokable cocaine known as crack, as well as criminals' easy access to weapons.

The telephone directory lists dozens of gun shops advertising fully automatic weapons like those used in the high school attack, although most are in the suburbs.

To buy a gun in adjacent Virginia patrons must only affirm that they are over 18 years of age, are residents of that state and have never been convicted of certain crimes.

"For home defence, we suggest a shotgun with a 20-inch

barrel," said one gun-store clerk asked about his wares.

The notion of home defence is a hot topic in Washington, where pockets of prosperity are interspersed with tumbledown buildings and drug-ravaged areas.

"This is a surface city," said Thomas Courtless, a professor of law and sociology at George Washington University. "It's the political capital, has the Congress and the President, but once you step beyond those you begin to realise some of the sharp differences between those who are disadvantaged and those who are very privileged."

Contrast

This contrast was clear on the night of President Bush's inauguration. When richly dressed party-goers arrived in limousines at the newly refurbished Union Station, the site of an inaugural ball, relief workers served free soup to homeless derelicts just outside.

Courtless said the "kinder, gentler nation" talk which characterised Bush's presidential campaign and his inaugural address is mainly geared to white, middle-class Americans and not to the predominantly black, poor residents in the White House's backyard.

Since the capital's murder rate began rising in January 1987, nearly all of the city's 400-plus victims have been black and ensnared in the "other Washington" of poverty, mean streets and drugs.

FAMILY DOCTOR

By DR ALLAN BRUCKHEIM

DON'T IGNORE WARNING SIGNS

QUESTION: My brother finally went to see his doctors months after he began to see blood in his urine. He was diagnosed as having cancer, but claimed he never thought it was serious because the bleeding used to stop by itself. You would be doing your readers a real service to discuss this condition in your column.

ANSWER: Thank you for your concerned letter and your sound counsel. Cancer can only be fought successfully when we all realize that treatment is most effective when we can make an early diagnosis.

Cancer of the bladder is a common disease of the urinary tract, second only to cancer of the prostate. As many as 400,000 Americans this year alone, will face the diagnosis that your brother now does. Most of them will be older, between 40 and 80, as the disease is seldom seen before the age of 40.

Three out of every four patients will be men, possibly as the result of exposure to cancer-producing chemicals encountered in the work place. Some of the tobacco tars, that pass through the urine, may also be a cause because smoking has been shown to increase the possibility of developing this cancer. However, there is no evidence to

show that the tendency to develop this disease is inherited.

The most common symptom is blood in the urine. It may come and go as in the case of your brother, but usually there are other symptoms such as frequent urination and pain and burning during urination. They serve as important signs to indicate the need for a medical examination. The physician will check the urine for blood, pus and infection, as well as looking for cancer cells which may come from a bladder cancer.

Kidney X-rays are indicated as well as a cystoscopy, that permits the physician to look directly into the bladder and search for tumours. Bladder tumours tend to develop in groups and can recur after being removed, so this process may have to be repeated often. If the lesions are superficial, they may be removed quite easily, but cancers that have invaded the bladder wall will require a combination of surgery and radiotherapy. Bladder cancer can also spread to other parts of the body, emphasizing again the need for early diagnosis and treatment.

QUESTION: My husband has a bad case of herpes and the rash looks terrible. Since we are always together, I am worried that I

might catch the same thing, since the doctor called it a viral infection. What risks am I running if I continue to care for my husband?

ANSWER: Your risks are probably not great, although herpes (also called herpes zoster) is a contagious disease. It all depends upon whether or not you have developed an immunity to the virus such as that gained from having chickenpox. Both chickenpox and shingles are caused by the same virus (the varicella-zoster virus), and since most adults have been exposed to this virus as children, shingles is rarely transmitted from adult to adult.

It's a different story with children, though, and there are many reports of children developing chickenpox after contact with an adult suffering from shingles, so this is not the time for visits by your grandchildren. When children with severe herpes zoster require hospitalization, they are isolated from other patients on the children's floor, to prevent additional infections.

With ordinary hygiene measures, you may continue to care for your husband without undue fears.

1989 TRIBUNE MEDIA SERVICES, INC.

ANDY CAPP

By Smith



BUSINESS & FINANCE

OPEC's January output on target

JAKARTA, Feb 18, (Reuters): OPEC did not exceed its production target in January, output ranging around the 18 million barrel a day mark, Indonesian Mines and Energy Minister Ginandjar Kartasasmita said yesterday.

He told reporters the figure came from an Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries meeting in Vienna.

"I have a report that OPEC's production is still on the safe level, that is around 18 million and for sure not as high as 19 million," Ginandjar said.

"So it's not true that OPEC has exceeded its target output," he said.

OPEC in November set a production ceiling of 18.5 million barrels per day in the first half of 1989, aiming for a price of \$18 per barrel. Market rates are around that, but market rumours say some OPEC members are overproducing.

Indonesia yesterday set the price of its March delivery of the key Minas crude oil to Japan, its major customer, at \$17.56 per barrel, unchanged from February.

Ginandjar stressed the importance of action on the part of oil-producing countries outside of OPEC to restrict output in the second quarter when demand usually weakens as industrialised nations use up winter stocks.

Ginandjar said he saw a positive attitude among non-OPEC countries towards stabilising the oil price. "If they co-operate, the prices will not be too bad in 1989," he said.

Mexico and six other non-OPEC producers will meet in London on Feb 21 to discuss percentage shares in any oil output cut they might agree on, an Energy Ministry spokesman told Reuters.

Brazil expects \$600m bank loan to be freed

BRASILIA, Feb 18, (Reuters): Brazilian Finance Ministry sources said today that creditor banks had indicated willingness to free a \$600-million loan that had previously been linked to a blocked World Bank loan for the power sector.

Asked whether Brazil would therefore be able to avoid a fresh interest moratorium, a senior ministry source replied: "Yes, of course."

The Rio de Janeiro newspaper O Globo carried a front-page report saying Citicorp banker William Rhodes, chairman of Brazil's bank advisory committee, had informed Brazil that the \$600 million would no longer be linked to the World Bank loan.

The Finance Ministry declined to confirm or deny the report in O Globo. But the ministry sources said the banks had not yet taken a formal decision.

Brazil had originally expected to receive the \$600 million, part of a major debt refinancing package, in December. But lengthy negotiations with the World Bank were bogged down in differences over environmental and nuclear questions.

There has been strong speculation in financial markets that Brazil has been headed for a new moratorium on interest payments. On the secondary market, the price of Brazilian debt dipped as low as 28 cents on the dollar today after 32 cents yesterday.

Talk of a possible debt moratorium first gained currency in January when Finance Minister Malson Nobrega said Brazil would suspend debt payments if reserves reached a critical level, which he did not specify.

Mitterrand's friend charged in insider trading scandal

PARIS, Feb 18, (AP): A close friend of President Francois Mitterrand and four other people were charged yesterday in an insider trading scandal that has embarrassed France's Socialist government, judicial sources said.

Roger-Patrice Pelat, a retired businessman, confirmed that he was charged with "receiving" insider information which allowed him to buy shares of the US company Triangle Industries Inc. in the days before the French state-owned aluminium manufacturer Pechiney SA offered a much higher price in a successful takeover.

Crime
"I am a bit surprised; but it seems that this is the normal procedure," Pelat told reporters after meeting with investigating magistrate Edith Boizette.

Three men were charged with the crime of insider trading: Paris stockbrokers Pierre-Alain Marzan and Ricardo Zavala and an

Biggest chunk of money still goes to Arab countries

Kuwait one of the largest aid donors in the world

By Diane Diaz

DESPITE decreases in oil revenues over the past few years, Kuwait remains one of the largest foreign aid donors in the world.

In 1986-87, Kuwait gave a bigger percentage of its gross national product to foreign aid than any industrialised country, according to the most recent statistics published by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

Aid
Kuwait spent \$491 million during the fiscal year, or 2.1 per cent of its GNP. Only Saudi Arabia gave a larger percentage of its GNP to foreign aid — 4.4 per cent, or roughly \$3 billion, according to the 1988 OECD report.

The amount Kuwait gives in dollars does not compete with the economic powerhouses of

Japan, the United States and the European Economic Community, who jointly provide nearly 70 per cent of the world's foreign aid money.

But Kuwaiti pride doesn't rest in the dollar amount it gives. Rather, Kuwait likes to boast about its altruistic intentions.

"It's not the magnitude of the contributions," said Hesham Al Woqayan, director of operations at the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development. "All we are seeking is friendship and good relationships with these (recipient) countries."

Alliances

Whereas the superpowers tend to dispense aid based on military and strategic alliances, and other aid-giving countries tend to seek out deals that guarantee economic return, Kuwait claims only to consider the needs of the coun-

tries who request aid.

"We don't have anything else to gain. We are not a superpower. We don't have equipment to sell," Al Woqayan explained.

He said some European countries get back as much as \$4 for every \$1 in aid they give, by tying their contributions to very strict conditions. For example, he said, some aid-giving countries stipulate that all raw materials, contractors and consultants must be hired from their country.

Donor
He said other aid-giving nations, such as the United States and the Soviet Union, help mainly those who fit into their strategic and military plans. He cited the huge amount of money that Israel and Egypt receive from the US.

"We're in a better position than any other donor because our only interest is for the project and the economy of the country

we help," Al Woqayan said, adding that, in Kuwait, politics has very little to do with foreign-aid funding.

"The Kuwait Fund is open for anyone," he said. "East and West can participate in our projects. It does not depend on politics, religion or race. We work in and out of the Muslim world."

Indeed, from the time the Kuwait Fund first offered aid to non-Arab countries in 1974, it has grown dramatically. It has offered assistance to 64 countries, including China, Turkey, Greek Cyprus, North and South Yemen and Angola.

Relations

"We are not affected by political factors. We are dealing with socialists, communists, liberals, and countries that may not have relations with one another. We only consider their

relations with Kuwait," Al Woqayan said.

The biggest chunk of money still goes to Arab countries, with specific emphasis on developing African countries.

The fund does not participate in projects that are in any way connected to Israel or South Africa. And, despite its non-discriminatory policy, it has not funded projects in the developing countries of Latin America.

Al Woqayan explained that the fund has deliberately stayed out of projects in Latin America because of the debt crisis many of those countries face.

"If you give assistance or loans that you know will cause problems later on, why start out in the first place?" he asked.

Al Woqayan went to say that there's "no point entering that region. Their problems are too great. They cannot be absorbed by Kuwait Fund activities."

Oil firms to spend \$274.5m on drilling

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 18, (AP): Oil companies will spend about 750 million ringgits (\$274.5 million) to drill about 45 exploration wells in Malaysian waters this year, according to a government report.

The investment is three times more than that of last year, according to the news bulletin of the government-owned National Petroleum Corporation, or Petronas.

The report, issued today, also quoted Abdul Aziz Mahmud, Petronas vice-president for exploration and production, as saying the company has signed 17 new production-sharing agreements with 26 multinational oil companies over the past 18 months.

Malaysia produces about 550,000 barrels of oil per day. A barrel contains 42 gallons (160 litres).

Some bumpy times still lie ahead for stock market

Fed's policy has not yet pinched

NEW YORK, Feb 18, (AP): To judge by the behaviour of the financial markets, the Federal Reserve seems to have made a remarkable discovery—a way to tighten credit without causing much pain.

For the better part of a year now, the Fed — the American central bank — has been following a restrictive credit policy in a campaign to keep inflation under control.

The prime interest rate set by major banks across the country has climbed from 8.5 per cent early last year to 11 per cent this month.

Yet the economy continues to grow at a healthy pace, corporate earnings flourish and the stock market flourishes ahead in its recovery from the crash of 1987.

Events

Naturally, this happy combination of events is welcomed on Wall Street. But it also poses a nagging question: Can the Fed keep inflation under firm restraint without sooner or later stifling business activity as well?

The optimists in the financial world say the Fed's tightening need not inevitably lead to a recession.

Slower growth, under this

kind of reasoning, can evolve into a "soft landing" for the economy, and an accompanying decline in interest rates that would keep the stock and bond markets happy.

But other analysts warn that a lot can go wrong with this kind of script.

Suresh Bhurud at Oppenheimer and Co. says he believes a full-scale recession can be avoided, but some bumpy times still lie ahead for the stock market.

Capacity

With the economy pushing against its capacity limits and the persistently high trade deficit, he says, the Fed will be forced to keep credit conditions tight until the economy has slowed significantly.

"Although it has rallied very strongly since the beginning of the year," Bhurud contends, "the stock market is likely to enter a corrective mode by mid-year."

Stock traders were still in high spirits in the past week. The Dow Jones average of 30 industrials rose 38.75 points to 2,324.82.

The New York Stock Exchange composite index gained 2.44 to 166.45; the NAS-

DAQ composite index for the over-the-counter market rose 4.82 to 407.19, and the American Stock Exchange market value index was up 3.18 to 325.95.

Volume on the Big Board averaged 156.85 million shares a day, against 191.09 million the week before.

Problem

The big problem with trying to gauge the effects of Fed policy moves is the time lag of varying length, between the central bank's actions and their visible results in the economy.

Richard Hoey, economist at Drexel Burnham Lambert Inc., says some special forces are also at work now to obscure the impact of tighter credit.

For one, he says, the Fed's actions have increased optimism about the inflation outlook, thus causing a rise in prices of assets such as stocks and increasing confidence in general.

"Fed tightening does not usually cause, positive, wealth effects," Hoey observes, "but it has been generating a positive wealth effect under today's peculiar circumstances."

The rise in short-term interest rates has begun to pinch the pocketbooks of homeowners

with adjustable-rate mortgages. But because long-term interest rates have remained relatively stable, Hoey says, rates on fixed mortgages have not gone up very much.

Thus, housing, usually one of the first sectors of the economy to feel the effects of tighter credit, has not been cramped so much this time.

Also, Hoey maintains, money from abroad in the financial markets and elsewhere has helped offset any "liquidity" squeeze resulting from tighter credit.

While this makes for a healthy picture now, Hoey says, it is testimony that the Fed's policy is slow, gradual tightening isn't achieving its intended purpose.

"We continue to expect a solid economic expansion in 1989," he concludes, "but it should be the last year of economic expansion. We expect a full-scale recession in 1990."

US oil imports increase by 20.6pc

NEW YORK, Feb 18, (OPECNA): For the first time in a decade, the United States imported more oil in January than it produced, the American Petroleum Institute reported yesterday.

The seasonal rise in consumption brought on by cold weather helped stimulate the surge in imported oil, but the institute's figures also showed that the shift had been coming for years because of a long-term decline in domestic oil production, coupled with rising demand.

Domestic production in January came to 7.90 million BPD, down by 3.4 per cent over the same period last year, while imports rose by 20.6 per cent to 8.20 million BPD.

"What you're seeing is the future," said Charles Dibona, president of the institute, adding that the figures might adjust somewhat over the next few months, but the long-term trend was clear.

Deliveries

For the third consecutive month, oil deliveries, an important measure of demand, were up by more than six per cent over the corresponding month a year earlier, said the institute, a trade group based in Washington. It

includes producers, refiners and marketers.

In January, oil deliveries totalled 18.30 million BPD, up from 17.20 million a year earlier. The institute does not record consumption, only deliveries, raising the possibility that its figures reflect the building of inventories by customers in anticipation of a price rise, rather than an increase in oil use.

Partly in response to the figures, oil prices rose sharply on Wednesday in trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. West Texas Intermediate, the American benchmark crude, for March delivery jumped to \$18.26 a barrel from \$16.91 on Feb 1.

Attributed

Traders also attributed the price rise to reports of new co-operation between OPEC and non-OPEC oil producers to limit oil production. In addition, the Louisiana department of environmental quality said that oil wells were bringing natural radiation to the surface, and some traders took that as a bullish sign because it might limit production.

"There was good buying from most sectors of the market," said

Peter Beutel, a trader with Elder Futures. "It looks now like we're headed towards the \$18.50 level, or maybe higher."

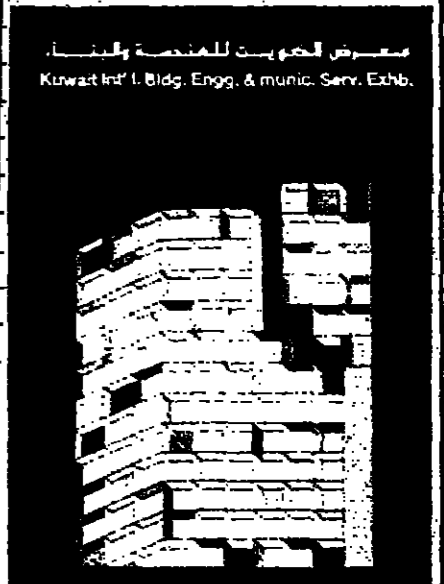
With the new figures, the United States is approaching the record set in Feb 1977, when it imported 10 million BPD of oil. In that month, 48.8 per cent of petroleum demand, which included natural gas liquids like propane and butane, was met by imports, and for all of 1977 the figure was 47.7 per cent.

Last month imports accounted for 45 per cent of total US petroleum demand.

Stimulate

The prospect is for a continued decline in production because oil prices are too low to stimulate new drilling. Kenneth Johnson, assistant director of the Oklahoma Geological Survey, said owners of many small wells were allowing them to run until they needed repairs, but as for shutting them at that point, he added, "it's rare to find people who were willing to lose money for the national interest," he said.

Dibona of the Petroleum Institute said: "We would could probably stabilise production with one hell of an effort. It would require higher prices."



INVITATION

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World Business Summary

Ford's 1988 profits set US car industry record

DEARBORN, Mich., Feb 18, (Reuters): Ford Motor Co. said yesterday its net income rose 15 per cent in 1988 to a US car industry record of \$5.3 billion, eclipsing the previous high reported by General Motors Corp., earlier this week. It was the third straight year Ford has had record net income. In 1987, the company earned \$4.6 billion. For the fourth quarter, Ford earned \$1.16 billion, or \$2.42 per share, up from its 1987 fourth-quarter results of \$932 million, or \$1.87 a share. On Tuesday, GM reported net income of \$4.86 billion for 1988, setting an industry record and surpassing its previous earnings peak of \$4.5 billion in 1984. Ford said its overseas operations earned a record \$2.1 billion in 1988, up from \$1 billion in 1987. But its US car profits fell to \$2.5 billion from \$2.75 billion. Earnings also declined at its financial services unit, which had a net profit of \$691 million, down from \$857 million in 1987. Ford's 1988 net income for both the quarter and year were in the middle of the range estimated by car industry analysts. The car maker said its international operations were boosted by record industry volume in Europe and higher operating efficiencies. It said earnings also rose in the Asia-Pacific region, reflecting strong industry volume and lower marketing costs, and in Latin America. Ford said its US car profits declined because of higher product and marketing costs, as well as a less favourable product mix. However, Ford in 1988 saw its share of the US car market increase to 21.7 per cent, the highest for the car maker in 10 years and up 1.5 percentage points from 1987. Ford said earnings on total car operations, domestic and international, were \$4.6 billion in 1988 on sales of \$82.2 billion, compared with income of \$3.76 billion on sales of \$71.8 billion in 1987. Ford's board of directors in January announced a 25 per cent increase in the dividend, from 60 cents to 75 cents a share.

Kuwait University
Faculty of Arts
Department of English
Cultural Committee

The Cultural Committee of the English Department has pleasure in inviting you to its 52nd seminar:

Theme:
"Arabic Linguistics in the West"
Speaker: Miss Kristen Brushed, Ph.D. Candidate in Linguistics, Harvard University, USA.
Date: Sunday, 19 February, 1989
Time: 6:00 pm
Location: Room 312, Building 5 (Opposite English Dept. Bldg, Shuwaikh).
Afterwards tea will be served.

Cultural Committee

Market continues to show weaker trend as Kuwait trade volume dips

THE Alshall index for Kuwaiti shareholding companies recorded on Wednesday an average of 38.08 points with a decrease of 0.86 point, 2.21 per cent from last week's average. The Alshall index for non-Kuwaiti shareholding companies reached 72.61 points with an increase of 0.64 point — 0.89 per cent for the same period, according to a weekly report by the Alshall Economic Consultants.

The trading volume for Kuwaiti shares reached 21.22 million shares at a daily average of 4.24 million shares with a decrease of 25 per cent from the previous week's daily average of 5.63 million shares.

Non-Kuwaiti traded shares reached 6.26 million shares at a daily average of 1.25 million shares with a decrease of 22 per cent from last week's daily average of 1.60 million shares.

The value of Kuwaiti traded shares was KD7.78 million at a daily average of KD1.556 million, a decrease of 17 per cent from last week's daily average of KD1.872 million.

The value of non-Kuwaiti traded shares was KD0.307 million at a daily average of KD0.061 million, a decrease of 22 per cent from last week's daily average of KD0.078 million.

The market continues to show signs of low activity in spite of the several attempts that aimed at raising overall activity. The main reason for these attempts to have failed in reaching the required results is that they were concentrated on one sector. The banking sector and few selected companies, leaving the rest to the free market.

Companies continue to declare their dividends and financial positions for 1988. Four companies listed in the Kuwaiti Stock Exchange have done so during the week, leading to a total of 16 companies 36 per cent of total listed companies that already have declared their positions and distributions.

In the non-Kuwaiti market only one company, 14 per cent of total listed companies, has declared its financial position and dividends distribution. Companies are still tending to distribute stock dividends together with cash dividends which are reflected in the increase of the percentage of companies 62.5 per cent against 25 per cent that distributed stock dividends this year against the same companies last year.

For the Kuwaiti share market, the banking sector had the lead at 70 per cent of total trading against 78 per cent last week. The Commercial Bank had the lead at 26 per cent, followed by the National Bank of Kuwait at 21 per cent and Burgan Bank at 17 per cent.

The real estate sector came second at 14 per cent of total trading, in which United Realty dominated at 99 per cent of total sector trading as a result of decreasing its capital.

The services sector came third at eight per cent of which Public Warehousing led at 37 per cent, followed by Kuwait Commercial Markets at 34.5 per cent, and Mobile Telephone Systems at 28.5 per cent.

For the non-Kuwaiti shares market, Umm Al Quain Cement Company had the lead at 27 per cent, followed by Bahrain International Bank at 26 per cent, and Medical Projects Company at 22 per cent.

A comparison of dividends for listed companies

The Company Name	1988 against 1987		For the year ended		For the year ended	
	Cash	Stock	31/12/1987	31/12/1988	Cash	Stock
Kuwaiti Companies						
The National Bank	22	10	22	13		
Kuwait Real Estate Bank	12	—	6	8		
Kuwait Finance House	—	13	4	9		
Bank of Kuwait & M. East	12	—	6	7		
The Gulf Bank	11	—	5	7		
The Commercial Bank	8	—	4	5		
Burgan Bank	8.5	—	4	5		
Non-Kuwaiti Companies						
Kuwait Insurance Co.	25	—	20	18		
Gulf Insurance Co.	10	—	10	10		
Warba Insurance Co.	10	—	10	10		
Gulf Cables	60	—	25	10		
National Industries	20	—	25	10		

Refrigeration Industries	10	5	15	—
Kuwait Metal Pipes	15	—	12	—
Mobile Telephone Systems	20	—	15	—
Kuwait Computer Co.	7.5	—	7.5	—
Non-Kuwaiti Companies	—	—	—	—
Bahrain Int'l Bank	7	—	7	—

Kuwait shareholding companies index

	Wednesday 15/02/89	Wednesday 08/02/89	Change points
Banking Sector			
The National Bank	108.56	108.56	—
The Gulf Bank	29.42	30.66	-1.24
The Commercial Bank	22.65	23.95	-1.31
Al Ahli Bank	28.83	31.72	-2.88
Bank of Kuwait & M. East	31.57	32.89	-1.32
Kuwait R. Estate Bank	29.37	28.97	0.40
Burgan Bank	25.27	26.26	-0.99
Kuwait Finance House	65.01	68.79	-3.78
Sector Index	44.28	45.42	-1.16
Investment Sector			
Kuwait Investment Co.	25.71	25.71	—
Kuwait Int. Invest. Co.	17.53	17.53	—
Inv. Pearl Kuwait	67.46	71.43	-3.97
IFA	70.59	70.59	—
Commercial Facilities	120.00	120.00	—
National Investments	66.67	68.63	-1.96
Kuwait Investment Proj.	92.13	92.13	—
Sector Index	40.54	40.78	-0.25
Insurance Sector			
Kuwait Insurance Co.	38.05	38.05	—
Gulf Insurance Co.	27.69	27.69	—
Al Ahleia Insurance Co.	49.51	51.28	-1.77
Warba Insurance Co.	67.01	68.73	-1.72
Sector Index	38.78	38.13	-0.38
Real Estate Sector			
Kuwait Real Estate	19.63	21.41	-1.78
United Realty	6.25	6.70	-0.45
National Real Estate	38.22	38.22	—
Sector Index	14.88	15.63	-0.77
Industrial Sector			
Kuwait Cement Co.	11.59	11.59	—
Refrigeration Indust.	88.94	88.94	—
Gulf Cables	112.10	114.16	-2.06
Kuwait Pharmaceutical	71.11	80.00	-8.89
Sector Index	30.62	31.26	-0.85
Services Sector			
Kuwait Computer Co.	166.32	166.32	—
Kuwait Cinema Co.	8.56	8.56	—
Public Warehousing Co.	59.60	61.62	-2.02
Kuwait Comm. Markets Co.	32.96	32.96	—
Mobile Telephone Syst.	271.43	271.43	—
Sector Index	51.34	51.78	-0.42
Food Sector			
Livestock Trad. & Transp.	48.41	48.41	—
United Fisheries	9.92	9.92	—
Kuwait United Poultry	83.61	83.61	—
Kuwait Food Co.	67.82	67.82	—
Sector Index	42.31	42.31	—
Overall Index	38.08	38.93	-0.86
Non-Kuwaiti shareholding companies index			
	Wednesday 15/02/89	Wednesday 08/02/89	Change points
First Gulf Bank	144.74	144.74	—
Bahrain Internat. Bank	95.17	95.17	—
Bahain M. East Bank	98.71	98.71	—
Coast Inv. & Dev. Co.	83.81	80.95	2.86
Arabian Gen. Inv. (Shusa)	51.52	51.52	—
Umm Al Quain Cement	17.62	17.62	—
Gulf Medical Projects	20.83	20.83	—
Total Index	72.61	71.96	-0.64

— Base Period 31/12/1983.

— All the companies listed by the Stock Exchange under non-Kuwaiti companies are included.

Pockets empty as world fails to act on debt, says Brazil

WASHINGTON, Feb 18, (AP): Brazil, the Third World's biggest debtor, says it has no money to pay on its debts next month, focusing new attention on the world's failure to agree on what to do about the \$1.3 trillion that poor countries owe rich ones.

The problem affects not only Latin America, but Nigeria, Yugoslavia, Indonesia and others with heavy debts to banks. They struggle to scrape together the billions needed to pay the interest on their debt every month and still have something left over to invest in projects that will halt their decline in living standards.

President Jose Sarney of Brazil promised to raise the issue when he sees US President George Bush on Friday at the funeral of Japan's Emperor Hirohito. Bush has said debt is partly a national security problem and must be reviewed.

Agreement

US Treasury Secretary Nicholas F. Brady's recent meeting with six major governments in Washington brought agreement, once again, that something should be done — but no consensus on what to do. To make its March interest payment, Brazil was counting on the release of 600 million in credits by the Japanese government plus \$500 million from the World Bank and 600 million

from private banks, said Finance Ministry spokesman Geraldo Moura.

Brazil owes about \$115 billion and Argentina nearly \$7 billion. Both have civilian governments which have emerged only in recent years after long periods of military rule.

Brazil transferred a net \$13.5 billion out of the country last year, according to figures just produced by the UN Economic Commission for Latin America. Sarney said Brazil does not have the \$1.3 billion due in March.

Interest

Much of the money would go to pay interest owed to US banks, Brazil's main creditors.

The Institute for International Finance, which groups major creditor banks, said Brazil has plenty of reserves on paper — as much as \$9 billion or 10 billion last September. But it could be short of cash because other Third World countries are slow in paying the money they owe to Brazil. Until 1982, more money came into Latin America from wealthier countries than went out again. That is the traditional pattern: loans and investments have tended to flow into the development of poorer areas.

Such flows had increased into Latin America after 1974, when oil-producing countries declared a big increase in their prices and deposited much of their new ear-

nings in banks. Banks then lent heavily in Third World areas.

But the borrowers did not always invest the money productively — some of it disappeared into lavish, unnecessary projects and private pockets.

Now, when interest rates have risen, the borrowers find the burden of repaying the debts too heavy to bear. Sarney said Brazil had paid out \$55 billion as interest since 1983, but still owes the same amount with another \$12 billion to \$14 billion due this year.

In 1987, Brazil had a total outflow of only \$6.8 billion partly because it suspended interest payments on its debt to banks for most of the year, a suspension that shook the world financial system.

The Brazilian Finance Ministry has warned in the past that it may have to suspend interest payments again, despite a recent agreement with the banks. But yesterday, spokesman Moura said a moratorium on debt repayment was not being considered now.

Outflow

Brazilians complain that the outflow of money leaves them little to invest at home in new projects to create more jobs, goods and income. The commission says the country's total production — and, consequently, incomes — declined by 5.5 per cent in 1988 after rise 9.2 per cent in 1987.

Argentine incomes have been declining throughout the 1980s, though there was a slight increase in 1987. The average Argentine earned \$2,370 last year and the average Brazilian \$2,020, according to the World Bank.

Dutch tourism team seeks to boost ties with Mideast

A DELEGATION of the Dutch tourism and travel industry is currently visiting the Middle East to strengthen ties with existing tourist organisations and to make new contacts. The leader of the delegation is Joan Kalf of the Netherlands Board of Tourism (NBT) who replaced Verhoef as director for the Middle East, Australia and New Zealand in January 1989.

During the ten days' sales mission which started on Feb 17 the delegation will visit five locations in the Middle East. Yesterday the team arrived in Dubai to visit the local travel trade. Today and tomorrow the group will be in Abu Dhabi where a workshop, sales calls and a press meeting will be arranged in co-operation with KLM, Royal Dutch Airlines.

Afterwards a full agenda will be worked through in Kuwait on Feb 21 and 22.

For some years now the Netherlands Board of Tourism, as the first European nation, has established its own representative here called Al Sayer Travels.

On Feb 23 the delegation will visit Riyadh where, in co-operation with Saudia, Saudi Arabian Airlines, a programme will be worked through with workshops, sales calls and a press meeting.

On Feb 26 and 27 a similar agenda will be undertaken during a visit to Jeddah.

Managing director of the Netherlands Board of Tourism Hans Cornelissen, will accompany the sales mission for part of the time.

Companies represented during this mission are the Amsterdam Tourist Office, two 5-star hotels in Amsterdam, Victoria Hotel and Amsterdam Sonesta Hotel and Van Moppes Diamonds, also from Amsterdam.

UK trade team arrives in Kuwait

A BRITISH trade mission arrived in Kuwait yesterday, and will be staying at the Sheraton Hotel until Feb 20. The mission is organised by the Kent and Sussex Exporters Association.

Thirteen British companies are participating in this trade mission.

The delegation consists of representatives from companies involved in the manufacture of consumer goods and industrial products. Also represented are companies offering training, art consultancy and supply services.

The team will also visit Bahrain from Feb 20-22 as part of a Gulf tour.

The 12-member team headed by Robert Biancardi, director of Biancardi Ltd, will explore and assess the potential for new and existing markets for British products in the country as well as to renew business contacts.

Interest Rates

KUWAIT, Feb 18, (KUNA): Following are the average KD interest rates of local interbank transactions as reported by participants to Central Bank of Kuwait, today.

Period	Bid	Offered
1 month	7-3/8	8-1/16
3 months	7-3/4	8-1/4
6 months	7-15/16	8-3/8
1 year	8	8-7/16

KUWAIT

BANK SECTOR	P.CLS	LT	HIGH	LOW	VOL	TRADE
NATIONAL BANK	1.070	1.070	1.070	1.070	150000	9
GULF BANK	0.355	0.350	0.355	0.350	330000	14
COMMERCIAL BK	0.260	—	—	—	—	—
AHLI BANK	0.300	0.285	0.290	0.285	390000	9
B.K.M.E	0.360	—	—	—	—	—
K.R.E.B.	0.370	—	—	—	—	—
BURGAN BANK	0.255	0.255	0.255	0.255	200000	1
K.F.HOUSE	0.430	—	—	—	—	—
INVESTMENT SECTOR						
KUT INV. CO.	0.102	—	—	—	—	—
K.F.T.C.I.C.	0.210	—	—	—	—	—
K.I.T.C.	0.140	—	—	—	—	—
COM.FACILITIES	0.480	—	—	—	—	—
AMLIAM INV.	0.000	—	—	—	—	—
I.F.A.	0.098	0.051	0.051	0.051	160000	4
INV. PEARL KUT	0.085	—	—	—	—	—
INSURANCE SECTOR						
KUT INSURANCE	0.700	—	—	—	—	—
GULF INSURANCE	0.360	—	—	—	—	—
AHLIA INS. CO.	0.560	—	—	—	—	—
WARBA INS. CO.	0.390	—	—	—	—	—
REAL ESTATE SECTOR						
KUT R.E.S.T. CO.	0.154	0.146	0.150	0.146	140000	4
UNI R.E.S.T. CO.	0.056	—	—	—	—	—
NAT R.E.S.T. CO.	0.192	—	—	—	—	—
SALAHIA R.E.	0.080	—	—	—	—	—
KUT R.E.T.CON	0.000	—	—	—	—	—
INDUSTRY SECTOR						
NAT IND. CO.	0.540	—	—	—	—	—
KUT M.P. IND.	0.320	—	—	—	—	—
KUT CEMENT CO.	0.170	—	—	—	—	—
REF. IND. CO.	0.405	—	—	—	—	—
N.A.M.T.CO.	0.000	—	—	—	—	—
GULF CABLE	1.090	0.980	0.990	0.980	100000	5
K.P.H.IND. CO.	0.160	—	—	—	—	—
CONT.MARINE	0.280	—	—	—	—	—
K.SH.REP.CO.	0.045	—	—	—	—	—
SERVICES SECTOR						
OVERLAND TRANS	0.082	—	—	—	—	—
K.M.C.CO.	0.180	—	—	—	—	—
KUT HOTELS CO.	0.170	—	—	—	—	—
P.WAREHOUSING	0.118	—	—	—	—	—
COM.MKT.CHPP.	0.016	—	—	—	—	—
MOBILE TELE.	0.285	0.280	0.280	0.280	50000	3
KUT COMPUTER	0.154	—	—	—	—	—
FOOD SECTOR						
LIVESTOCK T.T.	0.238	—	—	—	—	—
UNITO FISHERIES	0.140	—	—	—	—	—
UNITO POLTRY	0.228	—	—	—	—	—
KUT FOOD	0.295	0.295	0.295	0.295	365774	1
AGRI. FOOD PRD.	0.150	—	—	—	—	—
NON-KUT SECTOR						
B.W. INTER.BK	0.069	—	—	—	—	—
B.W.N.EAST.BK	0.052	—	—	—	—	—
UNITO GULF BK	0.000	—	—	—	—	—
COAST INVEST.	0.088	0.087	0.088	0.087	240000	4
A.G. INV. CORP.	0.034	—	—	—	—	—
FIRST GULF BK	0.550	—	—	—	—	—
GULF MEDICAL	0.033	—	—	—	—	—

KUWAIT STOCK EXCHANGE

COMPANIES LISTED ON THE PARALLEL MARKET						
FINANCIAL SECTOR	P.CLS	LT	HIGH	LOW	VOL	TRADE
-GULF INTL INS	0.000	----	----	----	----	----
-ARAB INT CO.	0.000	----	----	----	----	----
-SHARJAH INS	0.000	----	----	----	----	----
-GULF UNION INS	0.000	----	----	----	----	----
-R.K.WHITE CMNT	0.000	----	----	----	----	----
-AJMAN CEMENT	0.000	----	----	----	----	----
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR						
B-FUJAIH CEMENT	0.000	----	----	----	----	----
C-SHARJAH CEMENT	0.010	----	----	----	----	----
D-GULF CEMENT	0.010	----	----	----	----	----

ARAB TIMES Classifieds

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ROOM available for Indian couples or ladies at Kaifan, opp. Jamaiya No. 1, Area No. 3, Street No. 31, House No. 6. Contact Sultan Mohammad in person (10 am - 10 pm).

(AT2-46126-3)
KEIFAN, Block 1, Street 16, House 34, behind petrol station. Rooms available for families. Contact Mr. Soleman personally.

(AT2-46118-3)
FARWANIYA, behind the Holiday Inn. Accommodation for a Goan bachelor to share with a Goan family. Tele. Mr. Silvan, 4814499, 4819576, 4814151.

(AT1-46096-3)
SALWA, House-23, Block-7, Street No. 4. Big room with water, electricity, kitchen for a family or bachelors to share with an Indian family. Rent KD50. Tele. 5611243. (AT3-46037-6)

FOR SALE

Computers

ARC Turbo model (internal 20MB disk drive), two 360KB floppy disk drives, ARC EGA colour monitor, enhanced keyboard, assorted software. KD490. Tele. 2412304, after 2 pm.

(AT6-46075-3)
APPLE II PC monitor, 2 disk drives/printer, image writer (D) with software. KD750 ono. Tele. 2424448, 2424578, 8 am - 1 pm, 4.30 - 8 pm.

Miscellaneous

LARGE two and half bedroom apartment, off Salmiya high street for rent, KD200. Also household furniture and miscellaneous items for sale. Tele. 5744025.

(AT2-46122-3)
UNUSED image Polaroid camera, General AC — 2 1/2 tons, household plants, Hoover upright vacuum cleaner, and Murphy Richards heater. Tele. 2659271.

WINDSURFER with two sails for sale. KD80. Tele. 3904480.

Cars

TOYOTA Supra 1988, automatic, with full options. Driven and maintained by one owner, in mint condition. KD3,200. Tele. 4744612, anytime.

(AT6-46088-3)
MITSUBISHI Lancer, '83 model, registered up to 21.12.88, silver metallic, lady-driven. Tele. Mr. Khan, 392743, 3911320, 8.30 am - 1 pm, 4 - 8 pm.

(AT2-46127-2)
HONDA Accord 1982, automatic, dark blue, with AC, power steering, electric sunroof, windows, and stereo, low mileage, in good condition. KD750, ono. Tele. Mr. Zia, 2410098, 8 am - 1 pm.

(AT6-46074-3)
MAZDA 626 GLX, 1984 model, with AC, 4 doors, hatchback, fully automatic, registered up to Nov '89, in good condition. KD750. Tele. 4894315, any time (even Friday).

(AT6-46066-3)
NISSAN Stanza 1.8, '83 model, automatic, with AC, sunroof, radio, cassette, in very good condition. KD550, cash. Tele. Mohd. Zahoor, 5327128, after 4 pm.

(AT1-46104-3)
BMW 520, 1980 model, manual, with AC, sunroof, registered up to Dec 1989, in good condition. KD500. Tele. 4894315, any time (even Friday).

(AT6-46068-3)
MERCEDES 280SL convertible Sports 1985, (Al Bisher), 40,000 kms, in immaculate condition, for quick sale. KD9,000. Tele. 5724895, working hours.

(AT6-46081-3)
MITSUBISHI Pajero, '87 model, 15 months' old, manual, agency maintained, in excellent condition, for immediate sale. Cash or by instalments. Interested persons tele. 2626111, 2661122, 9 am - 1 pm, 5 - 7 pm.

(AT2-46115-2)
MITSUBISHI Galant 1989, fully automatic, brand-new. Tele. 3929367.

CHRYSLER Laser, 1986 model, full options, metallic black, in excellent condition. Tele. 5635630.

SITUATIONS

Wanted

MALE secretary/typist, experienced in office routine, telex and self-correspondence with transferable residence, available for an immediate employment. Tele. 4876984, 2443465.

(AT2-46105-3)
EXPERIENCED maid, part-time/full time available. Tele. 5628173, 10 am - 1 pm only.

Vacant

MAID required, Filipino, for a European family. Must speak English. Tele. 2413532, 2413548.

(AT1-46097-3)
MAID required for an European family to live-in. Tele. 5632464.

(AT1-46108-2)
MAID required, Indian Christian, for a Goan family with 3 children to live-in. Residence permit can be given. Tele. 4834079, 8 am - 3.30 pm.

(AT1-46106-2)
MAID required to do all housework in Farwaniya. Tele. 4738509, 4745745.

(AT1-46107-2)
MAID required, Sri Lankan, for a family, part-time, once in a week in Failaka island. Must speak English or Arabic. Salary KD15 per week plus transport allowance. Tele. 2790074, 9 am - 1 pm.

(AT1-46103-3)

Wanted
An experienced baker
With transferable visa
Tel. 2422825
Al-Doura Restaurant

MAID required for a small Indian family, part-time or live-in. Tele. 2449892, 4 to 8 pm.

(AT1-46098-2)
MAID required, Goan or Sri Lankan, for a Goan family with 2 children, to live-in. Transferable residence available. Tele. Mario, 2401826, 2401827.

(AT1-46099-2)

SERVICES

Tuition

REQUIRED teacher, M.Com or Chartered Accountant for a M.Com student of business finance under Poona University, India. Tele. 4842988 ext. 2468, 8.30 am-12 noon.

(AT2-46111-3)

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TWO Persian kittens, male, 6 months old, grey colour, fully vaccinated, good with children, for sale. KD65 each. Tele. 3721297.

(AT1-46089-3)

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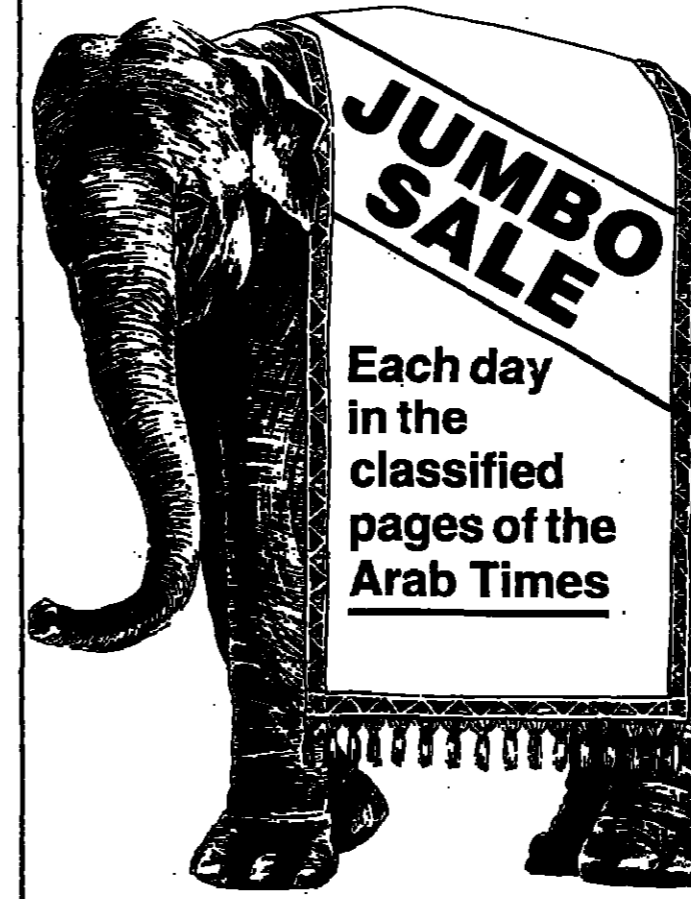
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Al Sharq Co-op. Society Hall (near Firdous Cinema)



USTAD EDWIN DASS

Tickets KD 5

Quezon overcome Baguio

QUEZON CITY scored a 2-5, 1-5 victory over Baguio City, a strong contender for the title, in the second PBAK Filipino Non-Pro Bowling League at the Holiday Inn Hotel on Friday.

The top scorers for Quezon were Pongsak 551, Surjit 524, Anukul 503, Edna Abenoja 416, Tino Ocampo 337 and George Abenoja 157.

In the other matches, Caloocan City thrashed Zamboanga City 4-0, San Juan overcame Las Pinas 3-1, Manila beat Makati 3-1, Valenzuela crushed Paranaque 4-0 and Cavite City routed Mandaluyong 4-0.

Eva Sabay was in top form and finished as the best scorer for Caloocan with 566 while Willy Sabay got 366, Nonoy Maramba 309, Wally Flores 312, Ramzi Jabshah 293, Carl Baginda 170, Roger Sabado 170 and Flor Tognson 143.

Meet

San Juan's Amado Garcia was also on target this week. He scored a total of 514 pinfalls. Tony Lopez was not far behind with 512 while Oying de Roxas got 309, Bong Pagutayao 297, Bert Papas 142, Bevelyn Penaloza 186, Vicky Mendonza 159, Arce 144 and Mandy Salvo 141.

On Friday, Mandaluyong met Quezon City and San Juan face Makati at 8:30 am while Cavite City take on Paranaque and Zamboanga battle Baguio City at 11:30 am. In the afternoon, at 2:30 pm, Manila meet Caloocan City.

Cavite City are at the top of the table with an average of 833.03 while Caloocan are second. Third place is occupied by Valenzuela with Manila fourth, San Juan fifth and Baguio City sixth.

Controversial Davis Cup court banned

LONDON, Feb. 18, (Reuters): Vienna's controversial Davis Cup tennis court has been banned following Austria's 5-0 rout of former champions Australia in the first round of the competition this month.

The International Tennis Federation (ITF) decided yesterday that experimental surfaces, like the clay-over-matting indoor court which the Australians hated in Vienna, would be prohibited for Davis Cup matches.

Austria, newcomers to the Davis Cup world group, had planned to use the same indoor surface for their second round tie against Sweden in April.

Australian Davis Cup captain Neale Fraser voiced complaints about the surface during the world group tie at Vienna's Dusika stadium two weeks ago, saying it was unpredictable.

His players, led by former Wimbledon champion Pat Cash, who lost both his singles matches and suffered a doubles defeat with John Fitzgerald, were also unhappy with the freshly-laid court which had a one-cm layer of clay over coconut matting.

The Italian referee in charge of the tie, Luigi Brambilla, and ITF observer Christopher Stokes both submitted reports to the federation's Davis Cup committee saying the surface was not suitable for top-level play.

NBA games

NEW YORK, Feb. 18, (Reuters): Results of the National Basketball Association (NBA) games played last night:

Atlanta	108	Cavaliers	100
New Jersey	129	Philadelphia	127
Miami	103	Hornets	102
Houston	121	Denver	111
Phoenix	135	Boston	126
Seattle	126	Bullets	112

Tanker Co. beat Hitters

TANKER CO. produced a splendid performance in this week's round of the Kuwait British Ready Mix Concrete (K.B.R.C.) Kuwait Monday Darts League, by inflicting a second successive defeat on title contenders Cottar Hoose, by 5-1.

With all Tanker Co. players on form, Martyn Rix had the only win for the visitors, although Peter Granowski had the consolation of recording the league's highest finish to date of 107. C.H. Ladies continued to improve thanks to their 2-0 win. Bagges were inactive, giving Straight As A Dai the chance to improve their lead with a comfortable 5-1 defeat of Mishraf. George Smith took full advantage of playing on his own board, to hit the season's fifth Monday 180 score. Dai-A-Straights also won, 2-1, to join Bandits as ladies leaders, with both Avril Smith and Kai Deutsch scoring 100's.

Faltering

Queens went third, thanks to a Maureen Simms 105 and 2 scoring Mickey Mouse trebles from Leila Skelhorn, as they denied Pacificists Ladies hopes 2-1. Wall-bangers also won, 4-2, as Brian Pon bagged another 140. Ragamuffins won their first game in 9 outings, taking Members by 5-1.

In the K.B.R.C. Wednesday League, the day's outstanding

GILBERT TAKES ARIAS TO TASK

Curren thrashes Connors

MEMPHIS, Tennessee, Feb. 18, (AP): Kevin Curren used an overpowering serve and strong groundstrokes last night to beat Jimmy Connors 6-2, 6-2 in the \$415,000 Volvo Indoor Tennis Championship.

Curren, ranked 22nd in the world, served seven aces and had very little trouble matching Connors' groundstrokes. Curren advances to this evening's semifinals to meet No. 6 Brad Gilbert, who beat unseeded Jimmy Arias, 6-4, 1-6, 6-2.

Posting

Johan Kriek, the 16th seed, and No. 11 Michael Chang wasted little time in their quarterfinal matches with both posting straight-set victories.

Kriek easily dispatched unseeded Richey Reneberg 6-3, 6-3 to set up a semifinal against Chang, who eliminated unseeded Australian Broderick Dyke, 6-3, 6-2.

Curren broke Connors with a crosscourt, forehand winner in the fourth game of the first set after Connors had saved three break points earlier in the game.

Curren broke through again in the eighth game, taking the set when Connors, ranked seventh in the world, double faulted.

The second set was more of the



Curren to meet Gilbert in semifinal

same with Curren going up 2-0 when Connors lost serve by hitting a backhand wide from the baseline. He won the eighth game

and the match when Connors netted an easy forehand from the baseline. Connors, playing in his first

tournament since undergoing foot surgery, said he was pleased with his week's work.

After splitting the first two sets, Gilbert got some help from Arias late in the third set.

With Gilbert leading 40-15 in the seventh game of the third set, Arias, who had been warned earlier by the umpire, crossed into Gilbert's court to question a line call.

Arias was assessed a penalty point which gave Gilbert the game and a 5-2 lead in the set.

Gilbert closed out the set in the next game when Arias hit a backhand long from the baseline.

Kriek got off quickly in his match, breaking Reneberg in the first game of the first set. The South Africa native claimed the opening set when Reneberg hit a backhand wide in the ninth game.

Netted

Kriek broke through in game two of the second set and then proceeded to hold serve, winning the set with a service winner as Reneberg netted a weak forehand return.

Chang got off to a shaky start against Dyke, losing his serve in the first game of the opening set, but gradually gained control of his match.

Zoeherer's 163 fails to save W. Australia

SYDNEY, Feb. 18, (Reuters): A dazzling innings of 163 by Western Australian wicketkeeper Tim Zoeherer failed to prevent New South Wales from winning their Sheffield Shield cricket match in Perth today.

Zoeherer was the ninth man out with the total on 327 but the match was all over one ball later when Geoff Lawson bowled Ken Lilly for caught. That gave New South Wales victory by 67 runs and kept alive their slender hopes of qualifying for the Shield final.

Lawson bowled superbly to finish with five for 51 off 24.5 overs.

Spare

In Launceston, Tasmania pulled off their first victory of the season, beating Victoria by six wickets.

Set 262 to win in 61 overs, Tasmania made 265 for four with 2.5 overs to spare.

David Boon, Glenn Hughes and Rod Tucker all hit half-centuries to set up the victory which moved Tasmania up past Victoria into fifth place in the shield table.

In Adelaide, Queensland, set a massive 437 to win, held out for a draw against South Australia and at the close were 330 for eight.

Tailenders Trevor Hohns with 23 not out and John Maguire, unbeaten until the close to deny South Australia victory.



Becker: had an easy game

Becker routs McEnroe to reach Milan final

MILAN, Italy, Feb. 18, (Reuters): Boris Becker, backed by his booming serve, overpowered John McEnroe 6-2, 6-3 today to reach the final of the Italian indoor tennis championship.

The West German, who won here in 1987, will tomorrow play the winner of this evening's second semifinal between Soviet player Alexander Volkov and West German Eric Jelen.

Becker's cannon serve on the artificial surface proved too much for McEnroe, who was seeking his fifth title in Milan.

Attack

Showing no signs of earlier arm injury, Becker served 10 aces and seized the first set in only 39 minutes.

But McEnroe, backed by a boisterous crowd hoping for a comeback, stormed back for a 3-1 lead in the second set as his serve-and-volley attack came

alive.

But suddenly his ground game deserted him and the burly West German reeled off five straight games as McEnroe consistently failed to come up with the passing shots he needed to stem Becker's offensive onslaught.

Becker has now won four out of the five clashes between the two former Wimbledon champions. The last time McEnroe beat Becker was here in 1985.

The American, who said he had been playing some of his best tennis, had never lost a match in the Milan tournament.

"Being the man he is, it's always special to beat him. My serve kept me going on important points. The first set I played just perfect," Becker said.

"This gives me a big boost by beating him."

Becker said his previous injury gave him no problems.

Johnson's physician denies doping story

TORONTO, Feb. 18, (Reuters): Ben Johnson's personal physician denied yesterday that he said the sprinter had taken steroids.

Astaphan's Toronto lawyer, David Sookram, told Reuters: "Dr Astaphan has asked me to tell you that he did not tell (the reporter) what was reported in the Toronto Star."

Sookram also denied the Star report that Astaphan would not come to Toronto to testify at the inquiry unless certain demands were met by the federal government.

Traces

"Johnson was stripped of his gold medal in Seoul after a urine test found traces of stanozolol. A government inquiry, which resumes in Toronto on February 22, has been called to investigate drug use in amateur sport."

Astaphan, Johnson's personal physician since 1986, has been in

the Caribbean island of St Kitts since November and did not return telephone calls yesterday.

Astaphan's Toronto lawyer, David Sookram, told Reuters: "Dr Astaphan has asked me to tell you that he did not tell (the reporter) what was reported in the Toronto Star."

Sookram also denied the Star report that Astaphan would not come to Toronto to testify at the inquiry unless certain demands were met by the federal government.

"I can tell you that I have no reason to believe that Dr Astaphan will not give evidence at the inquiry... subject only to the resolution of certain legal and administrative safeguards which I hope can be negotiated," Sookram said.

Aouita and Joyner-Kersey win easily

INGLEWOOD, California, Feb. 18, (UPI): Said Aouita of Morocco won the mile in 3:54.99 and Jackie Joyner-Kersey ran the second-best 60-metre hurdles race in American indoor history last night at the Los Angeles Times-Eagle Indoor Games.

Aouita, the world record holder at three distances, was third after a quarter-mile, but took control just before the three-quarter mark. Frank O'Mara was second in 3:57.97.

Last week at the Meadows Invitational, Aouita passed on the mile and a show-down with Ireland's Marcus O'Sullivan and won the 3,000. O'Sullivan ran the mile in 3:51.66, but set a world indoor record with a 3:35.6 timing in the 1,500 metres.

Joyner-Kersey breezed to her victory in 7.87. The Olympic double gold medalist, who recorded an American record of 7.81 two weeks ago in an event in Fairfax, Va., had the lead at the first hurdle and had no trouble from there. Donna Walker was second in 8.42.

"I have an injured right quad (leg muscle) and that's why I was hesitant at the start," Joyner-Kersey said. "It really doesn't hurt — it just messes with me mentally. I probably could've gone for an American record otherwise. But 7.87 is a good time on these (hard wooden) boards."

Dash

Gwen Torrence, undefeated in 49 consecutive indoor sprints, set an American record of 7.16 in the 60-metre dash, but was beaten when Dawn Sowell of Louisiana state ran the distance for the first time and blazed to a 7.15. Torrence protested loudly for what she considered a dead heat, but officials would not change their minds.

"I'd run the 55 metres, but never the 60," Sowell said. "Not bad for a first time, huh?"

Louise Ritter won the high jump in 6 feet, 4 1/4 inches and Mary Decker Slaney pulled out of the 1,000-metres race because of tenderness in her left calf and achilles tendon.

Earlier, Tomie Campbell won the men's 60-metre hurdles in 7.63. Cletus Clark closed a gap over the final two hurdles, but was second at 7.69.

1987 Cup yacht

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 18, (AP): The \$3 million 12-metre yacht USA, the St Francis Yacht Club's failed 1987 America's Cup challenger, was auctioned off for debts yesterday for \$30,000 — the minimum bid set in federal court.

The successful, and only, bidder at the US marshal's auction in the San Francisco federal building lobby was auto dealer Bob Cole, main creditor of the Golden Gate challengesyndicate.



Government Warning: Smoking is a major cause of cancer and diseases of the lungs, heart and arteries.

SPORTS

Liverpool edge past Hull

LONDON, Feb 18, (Reuters). Reigning FA Cup champions Wimbledon and beaten finalists Liverpool flirted with fifth round defeat today before turning up the power to snuff out the ambitions of Grimsby and Hull.

Half-time inspired visions of glory for the two northeastern clubs with Grimsby, from the lower reaches of the Fourth Division, leading Wimbledon 1-0 and Second Division Hull 2-1 ahead against Liverpool.

Control

But the dreams lasted little longer than the interval. The two matches had barely restarted before the big-name clubs took control to record wins by 3-1 and 3-2 respectively.

John Aldridge produced a double strike for Liverpool in the space of 60 seconds, equalising with a header from a cross by Peter Beardsley in the 52nd minute and then putting the visitors in front when he converted a header from Steve McMahon for a final score of 3-2.

A defensive blunder by Grimsby let John Fashanu past to equalise in the 57th minute and Terry Phelan dived to head home a cross from Dennis Wise three minutes later. Wise himself made it 3-1 with an injury time goal.

Manchester United were given

a harder time than expected at Second Division Bournemouth, who knocked them out of the Cup in 1984.

Mark Hughes put United ahead in the 53rd minute with his 15th goal of the season but Trevor Aylott equalised 19 minutes later and the two sides will replay at Old Trafford on Wednesday to decide who goes into next month's quarterfinals.

Hull's home tie at least gave their star striker Keith Edwards, the leading scorer in all competitions among current players, the chance to equal his personal record of scoring in eight successive games.

Edwards gave Hull a 2-1 lead one minute before the interval when he seized on a header from Billy Whitehurst, author of the side's first goal in the 34th minute after John Barnes had scored for Liverpool.

Favourites Liverpool, already missing striker Ian Rush because of a knee injury, also lost Scottish international defender Gary Gillespie just 10 minutes into the match when he was hurt in a clash with Andy Payton.

West Ham survived to reach the quarterfinals despite being reduced to 10 men for the whole of the second half at Charlton.

Midfielder Mark Ward was

sent off in the 44th minute for elbowing Colin Pates in the face.

But 19-year-old Stuart Slater, who underwent knee surgery only three weeks ago, took advantage of a hesitant Charlton defence to trickle the ball past goalkeeper Bob Bolder in the 53rd minute and maintain West Ham's record of eight wins in eight in eight FA Cup meetings with their fellow-Londoners.

Sheffield United were left cursing an own goal by Steve Thompson after Norwich beat them 3-2 to reach the quarterfinals for the first time in six years.

Thompson's error gave Norwich an early lead and though Brian Deane equalised, Malcolm Allen slotted home a second-half penalty to put the home side ahead again. Tony Agana made it 2-2 one minute later but Dale Gordon scored a close-range winner for Norwich nine minutes before the final whistle.

Results

English Football Association (F.A.) Cup			
5th round			
Barnsley	0	Everton	1
Blackburn	0	Brentford	2
Bournemouth	1	Manchester U	1
Charlton	0	West Ham	1
Hull	2	Liverpool	3
Norwich	3	Sheffield U	2
Wimbledon	3	Grimsby	1
English Division One			
Luton	0	Middlesbrough	0
QPR	0	Arsenal	0
Sheffield	1	Southampton	1

English Division Two			
Birmingham	0	Manchester C	2
Bradford	2	West Brom	0
Leicester	1	Leeds	2
Oldham	2	Brighton	0
Plymouth	0	Chelsea	1
Portsmouth	1	Walsall	1
Swindon	4	Sunderland	1

Scottish FA Cup fourth round			
Aberdeen	1	Dundee	1
Celtic	4	Clydebank	1
Hearts	2	Partick	0
Hibernian	2	Motherwell	1
Meadowbank	0	Morton	1
Queen of S	0	Alloa	0
Rangers	8	Stranraer	0
St Johnstone	2	Forfar	1

English Division Three			
Blackpool	2	Bolton	0
Bristol	0	Manfield	3
Bury	1	Preston	0
Chester	1	Notts County	0
Chesterfield	3	Gillingham	1
Fulham	3	Bristol C	1
Huddersfield	1	Northampton	2
Port Vale	1	Wigan	1
Reading	3	Cardiff	1
Swansea	1	Aldershot	0

English Division Four			
Carlisle	3	Hereford	0
Exeter	3	Burnley	0
Hartlepool	2	Doncaster	1
Leiston	0	Scarborough	3
Lincoln	2	Torquay	1
Rotherham	1	Darlington	2
Scunthorpe	0	Colchester	3
York	0	Tranmere	1
Crewe	2	Wrexham	2
Halifax	0	Cambridge	0
Stockport	3	Rochele	0

Scottish Division One			
Kilmarnock	0	Clyde	0
Scottish Division Two			
Berwick	2	Stirling	2
Cowdenbeath	2	Stenhousemuir	0
Dumfries	4	East Fife	0
E. Stirling	1	Brechin	1
Queen's Park	3	Albion	2

Christie pulls out of European athletics meet

THE HAGUE, Netherlands, Feb 18, (AP). Soviet triple jumper Nikolai Musienko won the first gold medal of the two-day European Indoor Track and Field Championships today, while British sprinter Linford

Christie was injured and had to withdraw. Ulf Timmermann of East Germany, one of the only three Olympic champions competing, took the gold in the shot put event with a heave of 21.68 metres.

Christie, the 100-metre silver medalist at the 1988 Olympics who holds the European record of 9.97 seconds, injured his left foot in training yesterday and dropped out shortly before the

first heat of the 60-metre dash today.

The Briton said he strained a metatarsal joint in his left foot.

Christie, 28, was going for gold medals in the 200- and 60-metre dashes at the two-day event.

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1 Completed Group - Gift Voucher worth KD. 5/-
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5 Completed Groups Gift Voucher worth KD. 25/-
6 Completed Groups Gift Voucher worth KD. 30/-

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3rd Prize: Gift Voucher worth KD. 60/-
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5th Prize: Gift Voucher worth KD. 20/-
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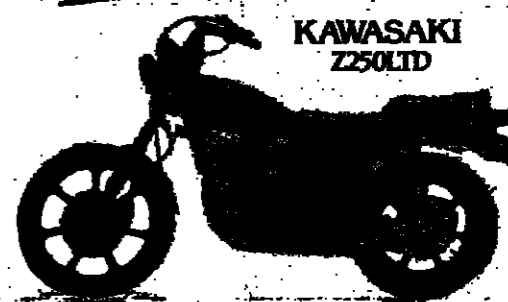
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10th Prize: Gift Voucher worth KD. 5/-

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THE SULTAN CENTER

Forward power helps England blast Ireland

DUBLIN, Feb 18, (Reuters). England's forwards set up a morale-boosting 16-3 success over Ireland in their Five Nations Rugby Union clash today.

Goalkeeper Rob Andrew marked his 26th birthday by kicking two penalties and a conversion, although he missed with three other attempts in slippery and windy conditions.

England, registering their third victory in a row against Ireland, dominated the lineouts and were worthy winners of a scrappy match played at a fierce pace.

Command

The success lacked the sparkle of the 35-3 defeat of the Irish at Twickenham last year, but it was satisfaction for England supporters after their disappointing 12-12 draw against Scotland two weeks ago.

Leading 6-0 at halftime thanks to two Andrew penalties, the visitors took complete command in the second half.

Dewi Morris lunged over for the first England try and then forward Dean Richards bulldozed his way through for the second.

Michael Kiernan raised his international points total to 254 with a penalty goal but Ireland, so impressive against Wales, never looked like winning despite the encouragement of 53,000 devoted home fans.

Spain outlast Argentina

TAIF, Saudi Arabia, Feb 18, (AP). Spain yesterday weathered a furious rally by Argentina, recording an upset in Group D of the World Youth Soccer Cup championships.

Ironically, it was a penalty which decided the issue 2-1 in Spain's favour as the teams battled for the full 90 minutes at a fast tempo.

The teams were level 1-1 at half-time.

The victory may assure Spain's successful move into the quarterfinals following their victory over the most-accomplished team in the group which also includes Norway and Iraq.

Iraq beat Norway 1-0 in the other match played in this mountainous resort city of Saudi Arabia's western province.

Argentina began well and there was a 12th minute goal from skipper Diego Pablo

Someone, but two defensive lapses cost the Argentines.

In the earlier Group D match, Iraq too gained full points from their match against Norway when they won 1-0. But they had missed an early first-half penalty.

The goal was scored by Saddam Meshed Naieem.

In Jeddah, Brazil gave a classical display in the youth welfare stadium to confirm its favourite status by defeating East Germany 2-0 in a Group C match of the championship.

Twice champions Brazil virtually ran rings around the East Germans, whose attempt at man-to-man marking proved ineffective against accurate passing.

The goals came in both halves. Marcelo Henrique Dos Santos headed in the first in the 36th minute, and Ricardo Franca scored the second in the 65th

minute to give Brazil maximum points from its first outing in the group.

The East Germans failed to make an impression, after a brief superiority during the first 15 minutes.

The Brazilians virtually camped in the East German territory for most of the match. The occasional East German attacks rarely had any impact.

But when the Brazilians advanced with their smooth-flowing moves, and flashes of individual brilliance, there was a hush of anticipation from the crowd.

Results

Portugal	1	Czechoslovakia	0
Cuba	1	Columbia	0
Brazil	2	E. Germany	0
Norway	0	Iraq	1
Argentina	1	Spain	2
Soviet Union	3	Syria	1
Mal	1	United States	1

Bayern draw

BONN, Feb 18, (Reuters). Bundesliga leaders Bayern Munich snatched a late equaliser to escape with a 2-2 draw at Eintracht Frankfurt today as the West German League season resumed after an 11-week winter break.

Results

VFB Stuttgart	1	Borussia D.	3
Bayer L.	3	Waldhof M.	0
Bayer U.	1	Cologne	1
Nuremberg	5	St Pauli	3
Bochum v Stuttgart K.	postponed		
E. Frankfurt	2	Bayern Munich	2
Karlsruhe	2	Hannover	0
Hamburg	2	Werder Bremen	0
Kaiserslautern	0	Borussia M.	0

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<p>ARCHE RIVAL 386™</p> <p>CPU: 80386 10/20 MHz operation speed, keyboard, selectable.</p> <p>80287/80387 co-processor socket built-in BIOS.</p> <p>Phoenix with shadow DRAM for BIOS and video ROM.</p> <p>MEMORY (RAM): 2MB up to 16MB, 32 bit, 0 wait state interleaved memory.</p> <p>MASS STORAGE: 1.2MB 5.25" diskette drive, 40, 71, 80, and 140MB fixed disk drive (optional).</p> <p>Case can accommodate up to three half-height storage devices.</p> <p>WARRANTY: Two-year limited warranty.</p>	<p>ARCHE PRO-FILE 286™</p> <p>CPU: 80286 8/16 MHz operation speed, keyboard, selectable.</p> <p>80287 co-processor socket built-in BIOS.</p> <p>Phoenix with shadow DRAM for BIOS and video ROM.</p> <p>MEMORY (RAM): 1MB expandable to 4MB on motherboard, system expandable to 16MB.</p> <p>Also supports LIM expanded memory.</p> <p>MASS STORAGE: 1.2MB 5.25" diskette drive, 40, 71, 80, and 140MB fixed disk drive (optional).</p> <p>Case can accommodate a total of six storage devices: up to two half-height 5 1/4" and two 3 1/2" front facing and an additional one full height or two half-height internally.</p> <p>WARRANTY: Two-year limited warranty.</p>	<p>ARCHE RIVAL 286™</p> <p>CPU: 80286 8/12 MHz operation speed, switch or keyboard selectable.</p> <p>80287 Co-processor socket built-in BIOS.</p> <p>MEMORY (RAM): 640KB on motherboard, expandable to 16MB.</p> <p>WARRANTY: Two-year limited warranty.</p>	<p>ARCHE PRO-FILE 386™</p> <p>CPU: 80386 10/20 MHz operation speed, keyboard, selectable.</p> <p>80287/80387 co-processor socket built-in BIOS.</p> <p>Phoenix with shadow DRAM for BIOS and video ROM.</p> <p>MEMORY (RAM): 2MB up to 16MB, 32 bit, 0 wait state interleaved memory. Also supports LIM expanded memory.</p> <p>MASS STORAGE: 1.2MB 5.25" diskette drive, 40, 71, 80, and 140MB fixed disk drive (optional).</p> <p>Case can accommodate a total of six storage devices: up to two half-height 5 1/4" and two 3 1/2" front facing and an additional one full height or two half-height internally.</p> <p>WARRANTY: Two-year limited warranty.</p>	<p>ARCHE RIVAL 88</p> <p>CPU: 8086-14.7/10 MHz operation speed, switch or keyboard selectable.</p> <p>MEMORY (RAM): 640 KB expandable to 1 MB on motherboard, 16 KB expandable to 32 KB.</p> <p>SYSTEM EXPANSION: Eight 8 bit expansion slots.</p>
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